

## GPs could opt out of NHS in shake-up plan

### Private health care key to government thinking

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

A new plan which would involve GPs leaving the health service and taking with them into private health companies their lists of 2,000-3,000 patients is emerging as the preferred solution among radical new options for the service.

The Government would pay a fee per head to finance basic health care, but extras would be the responsibility of the individual.

The urgent review of the health service has boiled down rapidly into a choice among three options, two of which would involve a huge extension of private health care.

The Government intends to

publish a White Paper setting out the proposals for reform at least by October and possibly as early as July.

With Mrs Margaret Thatcher playing a leading role in what she acknowledges as the Government's top priority, her preferred solution at this stage would involve the replacement of the existing district health authorities.

They would become free-standing Health Maintenance

Organizations (HMOs), led by GPs, who would take with them their existing lists, together with a Government capitation fee for each one.

The organizations would operate as private companies which, for payment of a fixed monthly or annual premium, would provide a total service of health care for the patient over the year.

They would be both insurers and providers of health care, generally fixed around one hospital. They might own that hospital or merely hire its services.

Individuals would not have to pay for their basic care. These costs would be met by the Government's annual payment of a capitation fee of so much per patient on the doctor's list, based largely on the age of each patient.

The age groups would be based according to the actuarial expectations of health care required for each group. The system would be sufficiently flexible to allow patients to pay extra for "frills" such as better food, private rooms and swifter attention.

The US-style HMOs, as private companies, would have a considerable interest in preventive medicine to keep down their costs. In cities such as London there would be a variety of competing organizations and patients would be able to choose which they wanted to join.

In America, where such organisations grew up as a means of holding down spiralling health costs, there are now 393 serving more than 19 million people.

Another front-runner is the plan outlined by Mr Leon Brittan, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. He called for the removal of all social security spending from the National Insurance scheme to be financed by general taxation, with health care entirely paid

for from a new National Health Insurance Scheme.

Any extra spending on health would thus become "transparent". It would involve an immediate increase in NHS subscriptions. Individuals would have the right to opt out and join private health schemes, ensuring that the non-health service sector of the health industry grew rapidly.

This has become known in Government circles as the "Scrap option" because, as with the latest pension formula, individuals could opt out of state provision and pay a lower premium for safety net cover.

The third option is that of maintaining the system in much the same shape as it is but with structural changes in management, more spending raised by new charges and an extensive development of the "internal market" within the health service, linked to better marketing of optional extras such as private rooms.

It would also involve greater trading of services, for instance radiology and pathology, between the public and private sectors.

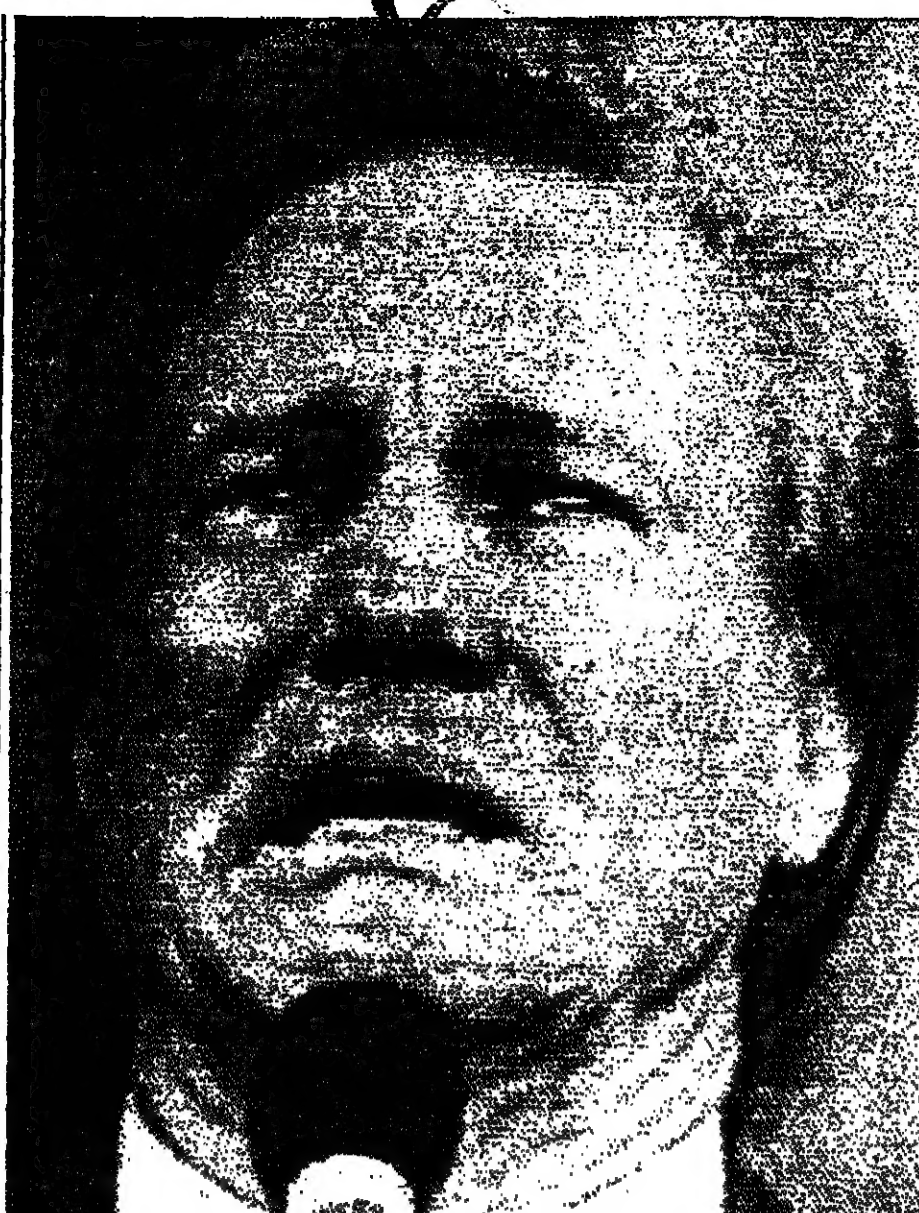
This was the only section of the new thinking considered for insertion in the Conservative election manifesto last June, but it was ruled out then as untimely.

Under the third option, Downing Street foresees a huge increase in the farming out of patients between different health authorities.

Standard costs for each diagnostic related group (DRG) would be established and the funds for different health authorities would be determined by the expenditure of the number of operations of each kind they would have to perform.

Those authorities that found their costs for a particular operation were well above the average would then have an incentive to send them to another area where the operation could be done more cheaply.

Thus if the standard DRG calculation for a hernia operation were to be £500 and area A found that it cost it £800 a time to deal with hernias compared with £400 in area B, then area A would pay that area £500 to perform the operation. Area B would keep its £100 profit to plough into its own funds and area A would "save" £300 of its own funds.



Tears of repentance: The American television evangelist, the Rev Jimmy Swaggart, weeping at his World Faith Centre in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as he confessed to paying a prostitute to "perform pornographic acts" in a New Orleans motel room. Tears shed, page 7

## MP facing resign call on TV-am

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP, is facing growing pressure to resign as a director of TV-am over his alleged role in arranging a sizeable Saudi shareholding in the breakfast time station.

Fellow board members who only learned recently about the substantial foreign-held stake in their company are openly seething and are expected to make their feelings known in the strongest terms at the TV-am board meeting on Thursday.

All Britain's independent television companies are obliged to notify the IBA of any foreign shareholding exceeding 1 per cent held by a non-EEC organisation or individual.

But the 15 per cent Saudi stake - estimated to be worth £3.5 million - was apparently arranged in 1981 yet only made known to fellow board members last year. The IBA was told 13 days ago.

The IBA has questioned the chairman of TV-am, Mr Timothy Aitken, the MP's cousin.

The 229 sacked technicians at TV-am are considering claiming up to £5 million from the company for alleged unfair dismissal.

## Moscow negotiations

### Shultz optimistic on missile treaty

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The chances of the superpowers agreeing a second historic treaty reducing stockpiles of nuclear arms have increased considerably after two days of successful negotiations by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, which included a lengthy meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Shultz also spoke of progress on a number of key issues which will be on the agenda for the Moscow summit, due before the end of June, including nuclear testing, Afghanistan and human rights. "We did not make progress on everything, but we made some progress on most things," he said.

A buoyant Mr Shultz reported that the two sides had agreed to draw up three key documents covering the main outline of a pact to cut long-range nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent in time for his next summit preparatory session with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Washington on March 22 and 23.

Mr Shultz - who had been negotiating until 1 am the previous morning - claimed they represented "important efforts" towards achieving a strategic weapons pact in time for the summit, the last before

Continued on page 22, col 7

## Air safety unit to curb traffic over Britain

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Six senior air traffic controllers are to be made responsible for making Britain's skies safer through restricting the flow of aircraft.

The move has been ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and will result in passenger delays as planes have to wait longer to enter British airspace.

It is part of an attempt to calm fears over air safety and to ease controllers' workloads. The decision was taken some time ago but is now a priority. The first team should be in place by Easter.

The six controllers, who will be promoted supervisors and run a flow management unit at the heart of the main West Drayton control centre, will be responsible for monitoring all flights and liaising with every British sector as well as 11 units throughout Europe. They will refuse to accept more aircraft if it appears that too many are destined for British airspace.

Mr Chris Stock, president of the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers, said it would result in the tightest air traffic system and would mean delays for passengers.

It was the only tool left to keep aircraft moving safely in crowded skies until the present system was improved and updated. "We are getting into the situation now where the flow management system, which was probably a little crude last year, is going to be very much more sophisticated."

"We are going to have a much improved system which will exercise complete control on traffic coming into or out of the country. The Civil Aviation Authority has always

tried to avoid imposing this sort of thing, but now the traffic levels are dictating otherwise."

Yesterday, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, dismissed fears about safety after the latest air miss. He promised a full inquiry into the incident near Clacton, Essex, but told MPs in the Commons that the incident involving a British Caledonian flight and Pan American plane was not a "risk bearing near miss".

A preliminary investigation had shown that the pilot of the Pan Am 727 had "descended further than control intended."

A Bristol helicopter with 36 people on board and an RAF F4 Phantom jet were involved last night in a "near miss" off the east coast of Scotland, the Labour transport spokesman, Mr Robert Hughes, told the House of Commons. The Government said it would investigate the report.

Parliament

The controller noticed this and took immediate remedial action", Mr Channon said. The number of risk bearing near misses had fallen from 45 in 1977 to 16 in 1986; it was 10 times safer to fly today in terms of reported air misses than it had been a decade ago.

The new flow management unit represents a significant up-dating and streamlining of the present system which is now carried out by duty controllers who also have other tasks. New communications equipment will also be installed to enable the

Continued on page 22, col 1

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● There is £72,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize.

Portfolio list, page 27

## US Navy Secretary resigns

From Michael Biegan, Washington

Mr James Webb, the US Navy Secretary, resigned yesterday in protest at the proposals of Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, to postpone plans for a 600-ship Navy by the end of next year.

In a strongly worded letter to President Reagan, Mr Webb said: "I am unable to support him personally, or to defend this amended budget during budget deliberations."

Mr Carlucci's budget, which falls \$32.5 billion (about £18.5) short of President Reagan's original proposals, sharply reverses the military build-up of the Administration's first four years. It imposes deep cuts on all three services.

## IN PART 2 BA under fire

The Scandinavian governments have asked Britain for talks on air traffic rights as British Airways came under fire in the EEC and the United States Senate. Page 23

## Ancient riddle

Scientists have discovered a means to unlock the secrets of the Pyramids, as Technology reveals today. Pages 29-31

## Peacekeepers

The Times today begins a four-part investigation into football hooliganism with a look at how last Saturday's FA Cup match at Highbury was policed. Page 38

## INDEX

Home News	2-3, 5
Overseas	7, 8
Business	23-28
Sport	38-42
Arts	10
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Bridge	14
Chess	25
City Diary	14
Crosswords	11-22
Diary	12
Entertainment	20
Fashion	17-18
Features	11, 12
Information	20
Law Report	35
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Parliament	4
Saleroom	3
Snow reports	41
Technology	29-31
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22
Wills	15

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## MPs nominate BBC for Nobel peace prize

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

BBC External Services, which broadcasts to the world in 37 languages, has been nominated for the 1988 Nobel peace prize, it was disclosed last night.

An all-party group of 22 MPs, headed by Dr David Owen, George Foulkes, Labour foreign affairs spokesman, and several senior Conservative backbenchers have put forward the broadcasting organization because throughout its history it has "endeavoured to live up to the BBC's motto and 'Nation shall speak peace unto nation'."

External Services, which includes the World Service, was created 55 years ago and has about 120 million listeners. Its funding, totalling £100 mil-

lion, comes in grant in aid from the Foreign Office.

The wording of the MPs' nomination says that the BBC External Services has contributed to global understanding "by their work of providing an objective, unbiased, factual and accurate service of world news. This has reported the nations to one another in a calm and judicious manner."

"When mankind has so many causes for incomprehension and suspicion and so many ways and weapons to exploit these misunderstandings, we believe an organization like the BBC External Services merit the recognition of a body as authoritative as the Nobel Committee."

From Philip Tansman, Moscow

Mao Tse-tung sought Soviet co-operation in 1958 for a plan to lure American troops into the heartland of China and attack them with Soviet nuclear weapons, President Andrei Gromyko reports in his recently published memoirs.

Mr Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister from 1957 to 1985, says in the memoirs that he rejected the proposal during a secret visit to Peking in August, 1958.

He remarks on many of the famous leaders he met and worked with, yet barely mentions Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev, with whom he worked intimately as Foreign Minister but who are now

in different stages of fallen grace.

The discussion with Mao appears to be the same one in which the Chinese leader, according to Soviet historians, argued that his country could survive a nuclear war, even if it lost 300 million people, and finish off the capitalists with conventional weapons. Mr Gromyko wrote that he went to Peking secretly after a visit by Khrushchev the same month.

The visit took place at a time of increasing tensions between Moscow and Peking that were little known at the time. China was seeking its own nuclear deterrent and the Russians had promised to supply an atomic bomb, only to rescind the offer in 1959.

## Land-Rover rival moves in

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

As the Land-Rover strike enters its second day the Japanese Suzuki SJ is set to take over as the best selling four-wheel-drive vehicle in Britain.

The Suzuki sales are being helped by dealers encouraging potential buyers to import them from the Continent - some are offering free air tickets to customers prepared to collect their new cars from the Netherlands.

By bringing in the Suzukis as personal imports dealers are able to sell several hundred more than would otherwise be possible under the import quota for Japanese vehicles.

A further blow to Land-Rover is that an increasing number of the Japanese

"jeeps" are being imported from Spain where they are built under licence by the Santana company, which previously built Land-Rovers and is still 17 per cent owned by Land-Rover.

Mr Bill Verland, a businessman in Kent, frequently or-

ganizes trips to Rotterdam and customers personally import the Suzukis through Sheerness. The Dutch Suzuki importer is able to meet the high demand because the Netherlands has no import restrictions on Japanese vehicles.

"We will watch this development with interest", Mr Anthony Fraser, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said yesterday. "If the volumes reach levels that make it obvious the manufacturer is circumventing the principle of prudent marketing (the import quota) then we will draw this to the attention of JAMA, our Japanese counterparts."

Some Suzuki dealers have waiting lists of six months for the popular off-road SJ. Total Suzuki imports are limited to 6,000 cars and off-road vehicles a year as part of the industry's "gentleman's agreement" which, for the last 12 years, has restricted Japanese imports to 11 per cent of the UK market.

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Land-Rover strike

22

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## Gromyko reveals Mao's nuclear trap for US

From Philip Tansman, Moscow

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The visit took place at a time of increasing tensions between Moscow and Peking that were little known at the time. China was seeking its own nuclear deterrent and the Russians had promised to supply an atomic bomb, only to rescind the offer in 1959.

Recalling that he was surprised by the audacity of the plan and Mao's seemingly cavalier discussion of nuclear conflict, Mr Gromyko says that he told the Chinese leader: "The scenario of war described by you cannot meet a positive response by us. I can say this with certainty."

Mao's plan, according to Mr Gromyko, anticipated a US attack on China as a result of tensions over the Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu. The islands, claimed by the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taiwan, became the centre of an international crisis in September, 1958.

Telling Mr Gromyko that he intended to act according to the

principle of "blade against blade", Mao said his forces would retreat to the China heartland, drawing American forces after them. Once US forces were deep within the territory, Mao proposed that "the Soviet Union should catch them with all its means".

Although Mr Gromyko describes Stalin as a "tragically contradictory figure" and "a cruel man" who "created a monstrous tyranny", most of his comments suggest he viewed him largely as a benevolent leader. The strikingly different tone of the critical section suggests it may have been added late last year after the rest of the book was completed, and after Mr Mikhail

Continued on page 22, col 4

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**THE TIMES**

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● At the end of the first 20 days, the readers gaining the top 100 scores will be invited to the Tournament Finals, spread over one week, to win a trophy and the £5,000 prize.

● In the schools section, teams of up to ten can compete to win an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer for their school.

● To begin Round One of The Times Tournament of the Mind, turn to page 11.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

# Telecom cuts its Talkabout lines

British Telecom yesterday ended its Talkabout service rather than accept tough restrictions to curb abuses. Ofel, the industry watchdog, had given Telecom two weeks to accept the controls after an investigation revealed bills of up to £3,000 being run up by teenagers.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, Ofel director general, said the service should be available only if the bill-payer requested it, and the cost should be shown separately on telephone bills. Telecom said yesterday that the conditions would have made both the adult and teenage services uneconomic, so it had suspended them from 3pm.

Telecom was fined £50 yesterday for removing two red telephone boxes for which a preservation order had been sought. The kiosks were taken from a conservation area at Hayes Village, west London, because of a "lack of communications", Uxbridge magistrates were told.

## Fireman's Pc's fifth £60,000 award

A fireman injured when part of a pumping system exploded won £60,000 damages yesterday.

At the High Court in London, Hertfordshire County Council agreed to pay the compensation and costs to Mr Paul French, aged 33, of Harlow, Essex. He was based at Hertford when the accident happened.

Mr French was knocked to the ground by the blast and hit by a hose. He has since suffered deafness and blackouts and was discharged on medical grounds. He sued the council for negligence.

## Curry link in deaths

Darragh Higgins aged five and his sister Gemma aged eight were found dead yesterday after eating a curry police believe was made with poisoned water.

Their sister Aisling, aged two, and father, Fergal Higgins, an electronics lecturer, were taken unconscious to hospital. Mrs Sheila Higgins was also in hospital, having raised the alarm on regaining consciousness 12 hours after the meal at the family's new bungalow outside Ballynahown, near Athlone in the Republic of Ireland.

## Shooting inquiry TUC acts on union

The Irish government last night set up its own police inquiry into Sunday's shooting of a man at a border post in Co Tyrone.

The Chief of Police in the Republic appointed Deputy Commissioner Eugene Crowley to institute an immediate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the shooting by a Grenadier Guard of Mr Aidan McAnespie.

The move will be interpreted as a sign of Dublin's deep mistrust of their impartiality in investigating the shooting.

Leaders of the electricians' union have been ordered to appear before the General Council of the TUC next month to face possible suspension over their recruitment of members at News International plants during the Wapping dispute.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said it was "a matter of exceptional gravity".

Mr Willis told the TUC's finance and general purposes committee yesterday that the union's leaders should have a chance to speak before any decisions.

## Fans' freedom hope

Defence lawyers believe all 20 Liverpool football supporters being held in a Belgian prison on manslaughter charges arising out of the Heysel Stadium riot will be freed by a Brussels court today.

The Brussels Appeal Court will announce whether they should be released on sureties of up to £3,200 amid growing criticism of the Belgian authorities.

Twenty-five men were extradited to Belgium last September over the 1985 European Cup final riot which killed 39 people. Five have since been released on condition they return for the trial and the remainder were freed two weeks ago but have had to remain in prison pending an appeal by the prosecution.

## Tal scoops chess cash as Kasparov falters

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Mikhail Tal, a former world champion, won the world blitz chess championship in Canada where he defeated Russian compatriot Rafael Vaganian 4-0 in the final.

Tal's victory was worth 50,000 Canadian dollars, a record prize for a tournament in North America, and was greeted with a 10-minute standing ovation by more than 1,000 spectators who had been following the games, which are limited to 10 minutes, on gigantic electronic screens that are expected to revolutionize chess as a spectator sport.

The tournament in Saint John, New Brunswick, was marked by several upsets, the biggest being the defeat of Gary Kasparov, the world champion who produced a feeble display against Kyril Georgiev of Bulgaria in the quarter-finals. Kasparov was a queen and a bishop up at one stage.

Earlier, Jon Speelman, the British world title contender, was eliminated by Michael Wilder of the United States.

# TGWU halts count after balloting complaints



Mr Todd, who has called for an account of the election.

By Roland Rudd

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday intervened in the union's elections for a general executive council by suspending the count in the Midlands. He also launched an investigation into allegations of ballot irregularities in London and the South-east.

Mr Todd said he had been forced to take the unprecedented action because of complaints over the procedure of the election in the Midlands-based Region Five. Today he will meet Mr Jim Hunt, the secretary, who will be asked for an account of the conduct of the election.

Mr Todd's move to suspend the count in the Midlands comes in the wake of complaints from Mr Martin Russell, the secretary of branch 5/722, that his members failed to receive new membership cards to take part in the workplace ballot.

Although they were later allowed to vote by postal ballot, Mr Russell said he had "very little faith" in the union's "organization". "We have grave doubts whether we were the only branch not to receive membership cards," Mr Hunt denied that the incident had anything to do with the decision to stop the count.

Mr Todd, who originally attacked reports of ballot irregularities as "unsubstantiated smears on the integrity of the union", said he had decided to investigate allegations of misconduct in the London-based Region One after Mr Ken Reid, the secretary, compiled a dossier on alleged ballot irregularities which had been sent to him by a union member.

The crucial election is being bitterly fought because of the implications it could have on the Labour Party's policy review. The soft left and centre right coalition, which captured control of the union two years ago, backs Mr Neil Kinnock's plans to overhaul party policy. A hard left controlled union would not.

Last night Mr Mal Snow, secretary of Region Ten (Humberdale), confirmed that moderates had captured a seat from the hard left. Mr Pat Ruame, for the soft left, defeated Mrs Joan Diggle, a supporter of the hard left.

Mr Walter Greendale, former Benite chairman, has failed to retain his seat on the executive. Mr Greendale has asked for a re-run after Mr Snow invalidated the returns from one of the branches which showed an "abnormally high return from the industry".

Union officials made clear that Mr Greendale would still have lost even if all the votes from the invalidated branch had been counted.

# MPs' sniping spoils unanimous call for more health funds

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Political sniping marred the launch yesterday of a supposedly unanimous report on health service spending by an all-party group of MPs.

At one point, Mr Terence Higgins, MP for Wokingham, the Conservative chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, called for order as a Labour MP clashed with a Conservative opponent.

Mr David Winnick, the Labour MP for Walsall North, interrupted Mr Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP for Tatton, to insist that "we are as badly divided in committee as we are in the House". The report had been signed by all committee members only because it was so "innocuous", he added.

Mr Higgins countered that it was remarkable that the committee had achieved such a degree of unanimity on such a controversial topic.

With the Government bracing itself for bruising exchanges in tomorrow's debate on the public spending White Paper and for a sustained Labour onslaught in the run-up to an expected tax-cutting Budget on March 15, yesterday's evidence of conflict within the committee will come as welcome relief.

The Government was concerned that the committee's qualified support for higher health spending would have been used as ammunition in the long-running party political battle over the service.

The report, the result of the committee's examination of the Government's total public spending plans for the next three years, makes two key points in relation to the health service — both of which are potentially damaging to the ministerial case that there can be no extra funds in the Budget.

It says additional spending on the health service could be increased during 1988-89 by £1 billion to £2 billion, without breaching the Government's commitment to reduce it as a proportion of gross domestic product.

Also, the Government should remove "damaging uncertainty" among health authorities about their spending plans for the coming year by announcing it will fund in full the pay awards it approves after the review body and trade union negotiations.

Conservative members of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, realizing the potential damage to the Government's case, were quick to qualify it. Mr John Watts, the Conservative MP for Slough, repudiated the section dealing with pay awards. Such a funding commitment from the Government would amount to a "blank cheque", he said.

Mr Watts and Mr Hamilton declared themselves firmly in favour of tax cuts and against higher health service spending.

During the Westminster press conference to launch the report, drawn up by 12 MPs with a Conservative chairman and an overall majority, Mr Winnick laughed derisively when Mr Watts described tax cuts as "leaving more money in people's pockets" and highlighted the "massive scope" for closer monitoring of the performance of the £22 billion-a-year service.

Labour MPs on the committee were backed by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak.

Mr Beaumont-Dark, while urging the Treasury to mount a rigorous long-term investigation into the efficiency of the health service, said that with £6 billion in the kitty, there was no moral justification for not increasing spending immediately by at least £1 billion.

Last night the Royal College of Nursing welcomed the report. Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary, said the momentum for full funding of the nurses' pay award had been gathering pace.

Treasury and Civil Service Committee, second report: The Government's public expenditure plans 1988-89 to 1990-91, Command 288, Stationery Office (£6.30).

## Threat to training for child nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Nurse managers in Manchester have warned that they may not be able to send staff on a children's intensive care course because they will get no money to employ replacement nurses.

The warning came as a hospital in Dallas, Texas, began recruiting nurses in Birmingham, where there is a critical shortage of trained staff.

Mrs Anne MacDonald, director of nursing services at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital who is helping to coordinate one of the first paediatric intensive care courses outside London, said that the region had allocated only £13,000 a year for the course.

"The money will pay the salary of the clinical teacher but little else", Mrs MacDonald said. "I will find it difficult to second even one nurse to the course as we will have to continue paying her salary as well as taking on an extra staff nurse."

Other districts in the North Western Region were in similar difficulties in spite of there being a vital need for a specialist children's course, she said. The Royal Manchester has five intensive care unit beds and is hoping to expand to eight, increasing the number of trained nurses needed from 25 to 40.

The Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street is the only place which runs a course in paediatric intensive care and last year trained nine nurses. There were an estimated 500 posts to fill.

The Manchester course is designed for six to eight nurses on a six-month course. Other courses are planned at Birmingham and Guy's Hospital, in London.

Senior nurse advisers have called on the Government to top-slice money for specialist nurse training to stop health authorities cutting back on training courses. "Post basic training now has to compete with hip and heart operations", said Mrs Rita Le Var, professional adviser in general and paediatric nursing at the English National Board, which has to approve all training courses. "Often the first thing to go is nurse training."

Yesterday the Department of Health admitted that it had no idea how much regions spent on specialist courses and said that post basic training was a matter for health authorities to determine from their budgets, and would depend on the specialties most urgently needed.

Last year the English National Board received £79 million from the DHSS to pay for teachers and the costs of running basic training courses throughout the country.

Regional health authorities paid £367 million on basic training.

Mr Charles Collier, the uncle of Matthew Collier who died after heart surgery which had been postponed three times because of a shortage of specialist nurses at Birmingham Children's Hospital, has complained that the service delivered by Deaconess Beryl Morgan at the funeral was used for political comment on the National Health Service. "A child's funeral should not have been used like that. We are not disagreeing with what she said, but it was said at the wrong time."

## Patent life for drugs may be cut

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The health service will save millions of pounds in its £2 billion a year drugs bill through a change in the law being considered by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Trade and Industry, is understood to support a reform drawn up by Lord Rix, a Labour peer and doctor, which will bring to the market earlier cheaper versions of some of the most expensive and widely used brand-name medicines.

It will halve the 20-year unchallenged monopoly enjoyed by brand-name drugs.

The change to 10 years will mean generic versions of such popular drugs as Zantac, used for peptic ulcers, will become available in 1993 — four years earlier than proposed.

Supporters of the reform predict the saving to the health service on this drug alone will be £30 million.

The Government is likely to reveal its enthusiasm for the 10-year monopoly on March 10 during the report stage of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill. Originally ministers planned to abolish it.

In recent years the Government and the multi-nationals have supported abolition on the grounds that the new sophisticated medicines need years of research and safety tests.

Last night a spokesman for the independent generic industry said the 10-year copyright was "a thoroughly acceptable compromise".

Falcon said that Karen had

## Best-seller for Stalker



Mr John Stalker, former deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, signing a copy of his book, *Stalker*, for Police Constable Harry Greig at Dillons bookshop, central London, yesterday. The book has had eight reprints since its publication two weeks ago, and 75,000 copies have been dispatched for sale.

Mr Stalker replied to comments yesterday by Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary that Mr Stalker lacked maturity and the ability to carry out an investigation into allegations that the RUC had operated a "shoot to kill" policy in Northern Ireland.

Mr Stalker said: "I do not want to prolong a war of words between the two of us and he is obviously under pressure to say something".

● Detectives from Staffordshire flew to Northern Ireland yesterday to begin an investigation into possible disciplinary action against members of the RUC.

(Photograph: Paul Lovelace, Parliament, page 4)

## British-Japanese enterprise 500 new jobs for van plant

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The former Bedford van plant at Luton, which is now a joint British-Japanese venture, is to recruit 500 workers for a night shift, it was announced yesterday.

It means a return to double-shift production after a 10-year break: output will rise to 34,000 vans this year, compared with 19,000 last year. The plant, IBC Vehicles, is jointly owned by General Motors and Isuzu and builds vans designed by Isuzu and Suzuki.

A year ago the Bedford workforce was cut by 1,800 and resistance among the 1,200 remaining to the introduction of Japanese working practices threatened plans to keep the plant open.

The changes were accepted and the improved efficiency has helped to cut losses.

Productivity has increased about 70 per cent.

More than 14,000 vans will be exported this year. As the first of those bound for Portugal and France rolled off the production line yesterday, Mr Nick Reilly, vice president of IBC, said: "The van plant lost £25 million in the 12 months before IBC Vehicles was started, last October."

"Although we will not get into the black in the first year, we hope to return to a modest profit in the second year of operation."

"It took the likelihood of closure to focus the minds of the workforce. It was not possible under the old company to make the changes bit by bit that were needed, it had to be a fairly dramatic change, so I would not blame the previous management."

Under the new regime there is no clocking on. Sick pay has been introduced, but absenteeism, which was running at 9 per cent, has fallen to 5 per cent. All staff share the same car park.

The night shift will start in June. Maintenance engineers are to be moved on to the production lines, where they will assist assembly workers and repair faults immediately.

In three years up to 1987 Bedford invested £70 million modernizing the plant but it continued to lose money and was sold to the joint venture for £8 million.

IBC executives are considering switching to a European engine to increase British components for the Mini and Rascal vans from less than 70 per cent to more than 80 per cent.

## Briton feared dead in ski fire

By Howard Foster

Fears were growing last night that a newly-married British woman may have died when fire swept through a Bulgarian ski resort hotel early yesterday, killing six people.

The Falcon travel company named her as one of their representatives, Mrs Karen Whinnerah, aged 23, from Sale in Cheshire, lived in the Hotel Moussala at the popular mountainous resort of Borovets, near Sofia.

The company said no-one had yet identified any of the bodies as hers, but it was seriously worried.

She was married three weeks ago to a Bulgarian, the company added.

Falcon said that Karen had apparently been seen visiting victims of the blaze in hospital, but she had not contacted her London office all day and it appeared that previous sightings may have been mistaken.

The Bulgarian Embassy in London said 32 of the 182 people staying at the hotel were in hospital. Eight were British tourists, although none was seriously injured.

Survivors flown back to Britain last night described fire precautions at the hotel as "a shambles" and the two British companies which organized holidays for 47 Britons at the hotel, Global Ski and Falcon Holidays, announced that they were to hold an investigation into conditions there.

Miss Sally Anderson, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, said: "There was only one fire escape and no alarm or anything. We were just woken up by screaming and breaking glass."

An emergency telephone number for relatives of those believed to be staying at the hotel is 01 290 1100.

# Claimants still face hurdles in fight for justice

The legal battle for compensation for victims of thalidomide — and recently that by alleged Open sufferers — emphasized shortcomings in the law on damages for court procedures and obstacles in securing legal aid.

In the meantime, under the new law, how much better off will victims in practice be?

Mr Mark Mildred, a solicitor with Pannone Napier, the firm specializing in large-scale claims over drugs and disasters, says: "For the ordinary individual, the new law will be quite helpful. The burden of proof has been shifted to the manufacturer and it is unlikely that they would want to spend £50,000 to £100,000 fighting a claim in court worth £10,000."

In the second of two articles on the new product liability law, *Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at how far the law will help victims in practice.*

For groups of claimants, he believes the fight for compensation could still be quite tough. They no longer have to prove the manufacturers were negligent, although there remains the hurdle of proving the product caused the damage.

Instead however the Act's definition of what is a "defective" product — that is, that its safety was not what people are generally entitled to expect — could lead to endless argument between lawyers.

"The concept of a defect is closely allied to negligence, with the same kind of test: if you give a drug to

healthy people, the standard of safety must be higher than if you give it to people at high risk — such as an AIDS vaccine — and it has side effects."

Manufacturers will be able to protect themselves with this concept of a "defect", he says, and do not really need the "development" defence.

It is the "development risks" defence, the Consumers' Association says, that is one of the Act's main loopholes. Manufacturers can protect themselves against claims if they can prove that scientific knowledge at the time the product was marketed was such that they could have not reasonably seen the defect.

The new law nonetheless has big implications for industry and also for the health service. Solicitors' firms have already drawn up guidance on it for their clients. Although it is UK legislation, it affects importers and distributors in other parts of the EEC where the ultimate customer is this country.

Liability in many cases can be avoided if someone involved in supplying the product further up the chain can be identified.

This means health authorities, for instance, will have to keep accurate records of every drug, or surgical product, such as pacemaker wires screws and prostheses, put into patients so that in the event of a defect, and provided they were not negligent themselves, liability can be passed on to the manufacturer.

Concluded

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'The coach was going to hit the van. The van exploded and just disintegrated'

## Mystery of U-turn that caused fatal pile-up on the M4

Eye-witnesses at one of Britain's worst motorway crashes spoke yesterday of how the van at the centre of the pile-up on September 9 last year appeared to explode and break up.

Four people died in the crash, on the M4 near Heston services, west London, which involved two coaches, a van, a lorry and four cars.

Mr Peter Clarke, who had driven one of the coaches, the National Rapid service from Penzance, told an inquest at Hammersmith, west London, yesterday: "I was in the offside carriageway when I saw a blue vehicle disintegrating in the centre lane. It was totally unrecognizable as the vehicle

approached me. My speed at that time was 60-65 mph."

Mr Francis Mann, of St James Road, Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire, was driving west when he saw another coach. He said: "I was just about to overtake the coach when I saw a van and thought he had a puncture. It was then that it occurred to me that the coach was going to hit the van. The van appeared to explode and just disintegrated."

Mr David Knight, who was driving the Blue Angel Motors coach, said he saw the 7½-ton blue van resting on the hard shoulder.

Then I saw he was going to make a U-turn. I could not believe my eyes. The van came straight out. He was 50

yards in front of me. I moved to the fast lane to try to avoid him. It was a head-on crash. They cut me out of the coach."

Dr Susan Claydon, who conducted the post-mortem examinations on all four victims, said death would have been instant.

Dr John Burton, the coroner, ruled that all four deaths were accidental but made three recommendations concerning seat belts in coaches and seat padding and ordered that the request findings be sent to the Department of Transport's Transport and Road Research Laboratory at Bracknell.

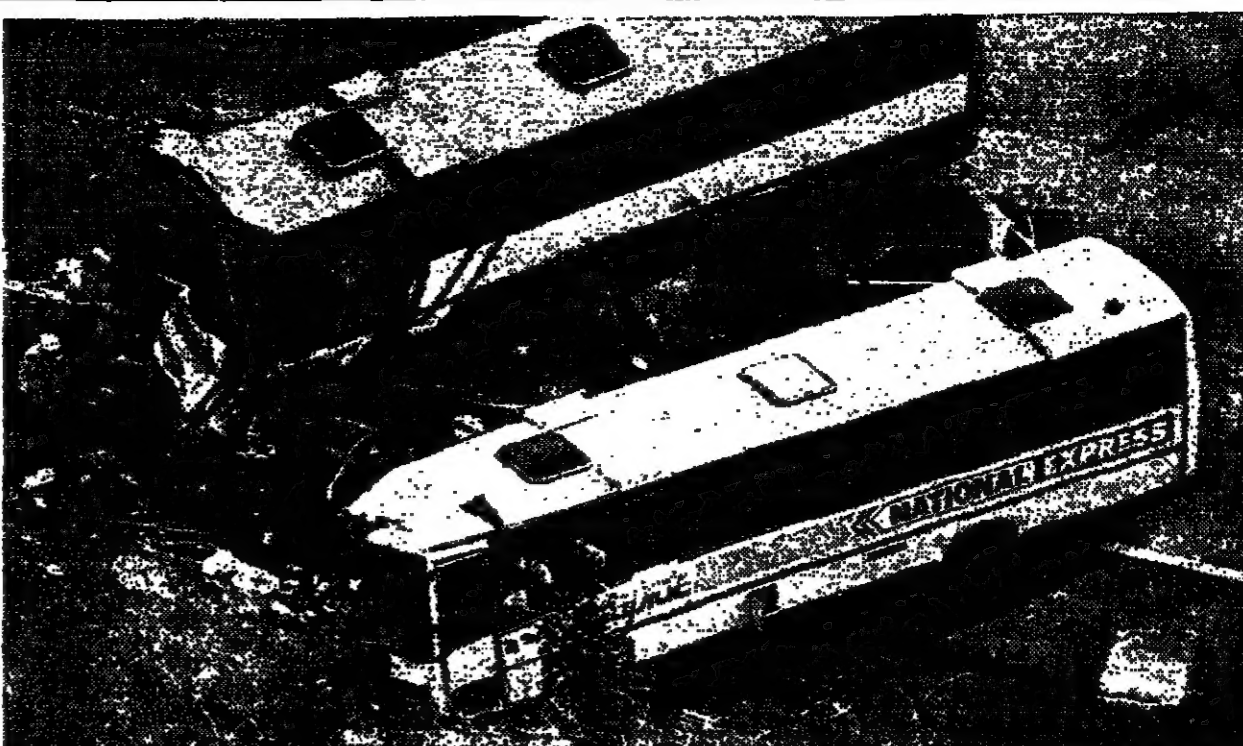
He said he could not bring any verdict of unlawful killings because that would imply murder or manslaughter, which was not an option open to him under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Act, the section under which the driver would have been charged if he was still alive.

Earlier Dr Burton had said that he saw no reason for the van to have been on that road. He said it appeared that the Bedford van had tried to do a U-turn.

"The van was delivering cans to Chiswick and north-west London. I can see no reason at all why the van should have been on the motorway", he said.

He told the court that the driver of the van was unfamiliar with the route.

The four people who died were Robert Moxon, aged 55, a professional driver, of Stansfield House, Longfield Estate, Bermondsey, south London, who died of multiple



The scene of the crash last September (top), and (above) the two coach drivers, Mr David Knight (left) and Mr Peter Clarke with Miss Edwina Dyson, a guide on one of the coaches, at the inquest yesterday.

injuries; James McDermott, aged 15, of Kingston Mansions, Clapham Road, The Oval, south London, who worked part-time; John Pearson, aged 67, a retired engineer, of Durium House, Somerset Close, Bishops Cleeve, Shropshire; and Sandra Bailowitz, aged 49, of River Ride, Old Pollards Road, Fort Lee, New Jersey, in the

United States. Mr Stephen Brooks, the district manager of Maison Currette, a wine merchant's, said that Mr Moxon, who was driving the van, was a driver with 35 years' experience.

Miss Catherine McDermott, of Clapham Road, The Oval, south London, the sister of the boy who died in the van, said an

arrangement with the education authorities and welfare services allowed him to work on the Youth Training Scheme. He was doing that on the day of the crash.

A lorry driver was fighting for his life in hospital last night after escaping death in a 17-vehicle motorway crash.

He was trapped in his cab

for almost an hour when fog brought chaos to the M62 near Rochdale, Greater Manchester.

The driver, who has not yet been named, suffered serious injuries. Five other people were also hurt.

Police blamed excessive speeds in poor visibility.

## Overtaker 'punched driver on motorway'

A motorist told yesterday how he, his friend and their girlfriends were ambushed in the outside lane of the M4. The men were dragged from their car and beaten.

Mr Tom Smith, aged 27, a service engineer, and his friend Mr Tony Burton, aged 21, who were returning to Wiltshire after a weekend camping and fishing holiday in Battle, East Sussex, said that they were attacked by the occupants of two cars who forced them to stop.

He said they were passing Reading in their BMW car when a Ford Escort tried to overtake.

Mr Smith, of New Hall

Street, Swindon, Wiltshire, said: "We were in three lanes of heavy traffic and there was nowhere for me to go."

He said that the car passed in front of him. The driver got out and began hitting him.

Three men from another car joined the man, and he and his friend were kicked, punched, and left lying on the motorway, he said.

Mr Smith added: "Other cars were braking and swerving around us as the fighting was going on."

Thames Valley Police said that the incident was being investigated.

## Foetus test may solve rape claim

By David Sapsford

A frozen human foetus is to be used in a "genetic fingerprinting" test by London detectives investigating the alleged rape of a young Asian woman, Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday.

It is thought to be the first time in a criminal investigation that the tests have been conducted on an embryo. The 12-week-old foetus was aborted at The London Hospital after the woman said she became pregnant when she was allegedly raped by a London solicitor at a job interview.

The solicitor denied having intercourse with the woman and supplied police with blood and semen samples which will be matched against the pattern of DNA from cells in the foetus, which the woman agreed could be frozen for forensic purposes.

Police believe it will be several weeks before the outcome of the tests is known. A report is then likely to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions who will decide what, if any, action to take.

Cellmark Diagnostics, a British firm which has developed the technique, said similar tests had been done on aborted embryos in two paternity cases yet to come before the courts.

Cellmark has conducted about 5,000 genetic fingerprint tests, two of which have led to criminal convictions in recent months. One was in the case of the killing of two teenage girls who had been sexually assaulted; the other led to the jailing of a man who raped his stepdaughter, aged 11, and made her pregnant.

## Education finds new inspiration in maths, but suffers growing pains in English

### Boy, 8, sets O level record

A boy aged eight has beaten the record set by Ruth Lawrence to become the youngest person to pass mathematics O level.

Ganesh Sittapalam, from Surbiton, Surrey, passed with a Grade A, the top grade, in the Cambridge Board examination, which he entered as a private student among pupils twice his age.

Ruth Lawrence passed the same examination when she was aged nine, and was accepted for a place at Oxford University four years later.

Ganesh, who attends Surbiton High School, said: "I am now working on my mathematics A level. I hope to get a place at either Oxford or Cambridge universities to study mathematics as soon as possible."

His father, Mr Arjuna Sittapalam, aged 42, an investment expert with the Swiss Bank in London, is a PhD in mathematics.

Mr Sittapalam said: "I have encouraged Ganesh with his



Ganesh Sittapalam: moving quickly on to his A level

work but I've always avoided pushing him.

"He showed an early interest in numbers and I simply encouraged him when he bombarded me with questions."

Mrs Nela Sittapalam, aged 41, said: "The incredible thing is that Ganesh was a lazy baby who walked and talked late. He suddenly shot ahead when he was two years old."

"We sent him to play school because he was so active, but he soon got tired of painting pretty pictures."

"By the age of 3½ years he was attending a proper school and doing normal lessons."

Ganesh is set special mathematics lessons at Surbiton High School and receives private tuition from his father every evening.

The school said: "Ganesh has already passed the standard of pupils twice his age. Now he is charging his way through the mathematics A level course and enjoying every minute of it."

"He will soon be beyond our teaching capabilities. A university will be the only place he can continue his mathematics studies."

### GCSE course condemned

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Pressure on examiners on English teachers of the new General Certificate of Secondary Education is reaching "ludicrous" proportions, and making the subject increasingly unpopular, a head teacher said yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Samuel, head of the Heathfield School, Hounslow, west London, said the assessment of course work in English syllabuses was taking up a total of 38 teacher days in his school.

"At another school, which I cannot name, the burden of work on pupils has been so much that not one fifth former is to do English at A level."

"It was one of the most popular options before GCSE but now they are put off."

In English, nearly all schools have been persuaded to opt for a syllabus in which all of the marks are derived from coursework carried out over the two years.

Teachers are required to "cross-moderate", so that they work together to make sure that they are marking work to the same standard, which, effectively, at least doubles teachers' weekly marking load.

"The situation is particularly acute in English because it is alone in having this emphasis on 100 per cent coursework", Mr Samuel said.

"The danger is that the educational establishment - its advisers and inspectors, for example - has not really thought through the implications of this and this has led to boards making ludicrous demands on schools."

At Heathlands, staff were trying to reduce the burden by concentrating solely on the GCSE work, leaving out other work that they would otherwise have included.

Mr Samuel said that in many schools, teachers were making the error of trying to

impose GCSE on a regular syllabus.

He also criticized the English syllabus. "I am not happy about the extent to which oral methods are taking precedent over what literature is all about."

"For example, having to write a local paper interview with Lord Mchobeli is all very well but it has little to do with the literature itself."

At Graveney School in Stratford, south London, the headteacher, John Phillips, banned homework for two weeks before mock examinations in December because children were working at home for nearly 40 hours a week to complete their coursework assignments.

He found that some children were working through the night to finish projects; 47 of his 300 GCSE candidates were working up to 10 hours each weekend and 22 were working for four hours a night.

Leading article, page 13

## Late-running legend keeps them waiting on platform 8

By Alan Hamilton

There is about as much chance of Bonedice, Queen of the East, being buried under platform 8 of King's Cross station as there is that she died of boredom waiting for the 5.37 to Huntingdon.

Reports circulating in recent days have attempted to resurrect the ancient myth that the original Iron Lady, who wreaked unspeakable vengeance on the Roman immigrant population of Londinium in AD61, reposes beneath one of the busiest corners of the entire Network SouthEast. There should now be a

broadcast announcement apologising for the late running of this legend.

At least one newspaper claimed at the weekend that ancient maps had shown conclusively the queen's last resting place to be just outside the King's Cross buffet, and that unnamed "leading archaeologists" were agitating for a full-scale investigation.

The truth is less exciting. Mr Howard Johnston, editor of a weekly newspaper in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, had merely aired the old and unproven story in a

column he writes for a railway magazine. "I have no wish whatsoever to dig up platform 8", Mr Johnston said yesterday.

British Rail said it had not the slightest shred of evidence that a British queen lay beneath their tracks. "King's Cross was built in 1851 on the site of an old asylum. Any bones down there are not going to have 'Bonedice' written through them like a stick of rock, are they?" an Eastern Region spokesman said.

"We have just spent thousands of pounds refurbishing platform 8 with terrazzo tiling, so anyone who wanted to dig it up would have to

have a pretty good excuse."

Miss Christine Jones, curator in the Roman department at the Museum of London, said yesterday that if the original British hit-and-run guerrilla was indeed at rest under King's Cross, it would be most exciting, but the possibility was virtually nil. "She attacked Colchester, then London, then St Albans, where she had her last battle against Suetonius Paulinus. There was no reason for her to come back to London."

"The Roman historian Dio records that she took ill and died,

and that her body was given back to the British for an imperial burial. But that almost certainly took place well north of London", Miss Jones said.

The King's Cross myth may have arisen because the area used to be known as Battle Bridge; it was therefore assumed that some significant engagement must have taken place on that spot. But Tacitus records that Bonedice's celebrated encounter took place by a hill and a deep defile, features in which the King's Cross area is noticeably deficient.

Leading article, page 13

## BMA to act over medical blunders

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs  
Correspondent

Government officials have given the first indication that they are prepared to consider a no-fault compensation scheme by which victims of medical accidents would in certain cases automatically receive damages.

The British Medical Association and many other bodies have been pressing for such a scheme for years but the Government has always ruled it out on grounds of cost.

Now officials at the Department of Health and Social Security have agreed that the BMA, together with representatives from the legal profession and insurance industry, should draw up proposals for a pilot scheme under which certain victims would be compensated.

The scheme would operate within strictly defined limits and where blame cannot be apportioned. It would not necessarily be statutory.

The move comes at a time of mounting pressure for a change in the law and an escalating number of medical negligence claims: the first legal action in Britain over a transfusion of blood contaminated by the Aids virus has just been launched and a second is coming shortly.

At the same time, claims for some 1,000 tranquillizer addicts are being coordinated in readiness for a massive claim against manufacturers; and more than 50 haemophiliacs or wives of haemophiliacs are preparing to issue writs against health authorities over contaminated blood products.

Mr Graham Ross, of J Keith Park and Co, Stockport, who is coordinating the 90 firms of solicitors on the tranquillizer claims, said: "The numbers coming forward are growing daily. I am particularly anxious to contact anyone who took part in the Aids virus field trials in the 1970s to help in collating evidence for the case."

Today a campaign for wholesale reform to help groups of victims win damages over defective drugs is to be launched by those who took on the battle for the alleged sufferers of the anti-arthritis drug Opren.

The campaigners are to press for abolition of the "development risks" defence which, under the new product liability law which comes into force next week, gives manufacturers a defence against claims.

Alternatively they want a no-fault compensation scheme: one option would be for the pharmaceutical industry to be required to contribute a percentage of profits.

A third option would be for a change in the law to allow class actions to be financed by the legal aid fund, without a means test.

The campaign, to be led by Mr Des Wilson, coordinator of Citizens Action, coincides with an announcement yesterday that 98 per cent of claims between alleged Opren sufferers and the drug's manufacturer Eli Lilly have been settled.

## Mileage fixed on new car

Ian Sexton, a director, and Paul Bennett, a salesman, of Worthing Nissan Garages, West Sussex, were fined £900 after they admitted selling a new car with a false mileage.

Worthing magistrates were told yesterday the speedometer on a Sunny was disconnected before it was driven 464 miles from Glasgow. The garage's parent company was fined £500.

## Bath fights for painting

## Fund to buy Gainsborough

Staff at the Holburne of Meisner Museum in Bath are trying to save Gainsborough's portrait of Lady Charles from being sold at Christie's on April 15.

The painting, estimated at more than £500,000, was collected by a Christie's van, at no notice to the museum, last week.

The museum, part of Bath University, has had the painting on loan for over 20 years and had been under the impression that it would be left the painting when the owner died - but he appears to have altered his will.

Lady Louisa Clarges was a renowned harpist from the city, and a member of the Skyrme family.

The museum has been given a stay of execution until this Friday to raise £200,000, which would enable the painting to be saved through the government's private treaty sale arrangements.

Mrs Barbara Robertson, chairman of the museum's trustees, said: "The painting is

By Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

one of our biggest attractions. We have a busy week ahead."

Sotheby's continued its Monaco season with quality furniture on Sunday night, at which it achieved a total of 6.2 million FF (£612,648), with 10 per cent unsold.

A Louis XV commode, fetched the highest price of £1.1 million FF (£109,683) against an estimate of up to 900,000 FF. Next came a pair of Louis XVI candlestick holders in the form of nude, dancing fauns. Estimated at up to 800,000 FF, they sold for just over 1 million FF (£104,199). The original drawing for the faunesses is preserved in the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, and this must have accounted for the figures' desirability, as well as the fact that an identical pair is in the Louvre collection.

Jean Antoine Houdon's seated statue of the philosopher Voltaire - dressed in a droopy toga, his enigmatic face and hands copied from his death mask, fetched £21,400 FF (£81,166) against an unpublished estimate of 500,000 FF, selling to an anonymous buyer.

Meanwhile, Sotheby's London began a two day early English and Continental Glass sale with great success, with the highlights - Italian majolica, rare examples of signed Meissen ware - coming up today.

Top price of £10,450 was for a rare octagonal sealed wine bottle. Coloured the original bottle green, and replete with an applied seal inscribed J.M. Reeve, 1738, it left its estimate of £1,500 to £2,500 standing, selling to a telephone bidder.

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February 22 1988

PARLIAMENT

# CAA's air-miss inquiry decision is praised

The decision of Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, to conduct an inquiry into the air-miss reporting and investigation system was welcomed as "very sensible" by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport.

Replying to Commons questions about recent air misses, he said that the trend for these to occur had been downward in recent years.

In reply to Opposition suggestions that one solution to the overcrowding of London's skies was to initiate more international flights from the northern part of the Kingdom, Mr Channon said that the expansion of provincial airports

**TRANSPORT**

aircraft descended further than the controller intended. The controller took immediate remedial action. The incident will be investigated.

Mr Tugendhat (Worthing, C) said that Mr Channon was satisfied that everything was being done to encourage reporting of these events so that there were reliable statistics.

There was an argument for having more routes particularly across the Channel so that traffic could be more widely spread. Mr Channon said that the CAA chairman had initiated discussions with the MoD on this very point.

The CAA chairman had initiated discussions on the air-miss reporting and investigation system. He had invited officials from the Department of Transport to participate. That was an extremely sensible idea.

Mrs Ray Michie, Liberal spokesman on transport, said that Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, had not been asked to look at this matter on February 8. "We are looking for a proper investigation into what is going on."

She went on: "One does not want to be alarmist, but I fly regularly up and down from Scotland. Flying frightens the living daylights out of me. Many people are seriously worried. If there is so much air traffic in the South-east, why should not more planes fly out of Prestwick, for example?"

Mr Channon said that he was looking for more planes to fly out of Prestwick and every other provincial or Scottish aerodrome. The more traffic that could be encouraged to do that, the better.

The record of near misses was going down and not up. That was the point he must make the House understood.

Mr David Steel's speech last autumn had been alarmist and extremely irresponsible and did not make the figures into an account.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C), chairman of the backbench, all-party aviation committee, asked whether the inquiry into the very severe air miss a couple of weeks ago could be expanded to include the latest incident.

The time might be on the horizon when to go on having individual inquiries into air misses should be replaced by an inquiry into the whole question of air traffic control to try to

reassure the many who flew and the many who lived under the flight path.

Mr Channon: Present indications are that the incident to which he is referring was not a risk-bearing air miss.

It is the chief inspector, not I, who by law decides what the Air Accident Investigation Branch is to investigate. It is quite right that he should not be under political pressure from ministers.

Any safety recommendation about the air traffic control system that emerged would be reported to the CAA without delay.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said that many northerners still had to struggle down to Heathrow and Gatwick to reach destinations abroad for which there ought to be scheduled services from Manchester.

Mr Channon replied that some new international destinations could be reached from Manchester. He hoped there would be formal discussions before long on this point with the Americans.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C) said that it was important to differentiate between reported air misses and risk-bearing air misses. In terms of reported air misses, it was four times as many today than it had been 10 years ago.

On risk-bearing air misses, the figure for 1986 was only 16. For 1977, it was 45. There had been a massive improvement.

It was inconsistent that air traffic controllers, a very small

minority in that field, should try to make political capital out of the present circumstances.

Mr Channon replied that Mr Colvin had put his finger on it. The trend for risk-bearing air misses was downwards over recent years. It was not a new situation. Despite Labour's protestations that the situation could not last, it did not. In 1978 there were 119 no-risk incidents. Traffic had increased since then but the number of no-risk incidents had decreased.

When was he going to stop passing the buck to the CAA and accept responsibility himself?

Mr David Ashby (North-West Leicestershire, C) asked whether it was right for the CAA to investigate itself on transport safety.

Mr Channon said air miss reports in general were widely circulated. The CAA was not investigating its own safety. It was a civil aviation safety adviser wanted to discuss them.

Mr Nigel Spearman (Newham South, Lab) said that Mr Channon's replies would not be satisfactory to all the people of London. Unlike sea or rail safety standards, which were open and visible, the CAA was not visible and not open and was judge and jury in its own court.

Mr Channon said that there were air misses when Labour was in office, so this was not a new situation. Despite Labour's protestations that the situation could not last, it did not. In 1978 there were 119 no-risk incidents. Traffic had increased since then but the number of no-risk incidents had decreased.

**Minister has become so complacent that he has degenerated into using claptrap**

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, accused Mr Channon of "becoming so complacent that he had degenerated into using claptrap."

The subject was raised by Mr James Wray (Glasgow, Prov. Lab), who said that not only had there been two near air misses in the past fortnight but there had also been 365 near misses since 1986.

Obviously there had been many complaints to the Civil Aviation Authority office and air traffic controllers had complained about the reporting system. The skies had become like the A74 road from Carlisle to Glasgow. They were too crowded.

Mr Channon: He has overlooked that in recent years, the number of risk-bearing air misses for commercial air transport is going down, not up.

We must not be complacent, nor must we overreact to these situations. It is very important to understand and get them in perspective.

The air miss which occurred yesterday was between a PanAm 727 and a B-Cal BAC 1-11. The B-Cal aircraft was in level flight at 25,000 feet. The PanAm plane was descending from 31,000 feet to a cleared altitude of 26,000 feet.

Preliminary investigations are that the pilot of the PanAm



Mr Paul Channon (left), who replied to anxieties raised in the House yesterday by Mr Robert McCrindle (above right) and Mr Robert Hughes

## Stalker point rejected

In exchanges on the Stalker affair during question time, a Conservative backbencher told the Attorney General that the book *Stalker* by John Stalker was a "tissue of lies or a breach of confidence. Surely it cannot be both."

Mr Patrick Curran (Staffordshire South, C) is the book's author. He said that the book was a "tissue of lies or a breach of confidence. Surely it cannot be both."

Mr Patrick: He speaks as though these things are mutually incompatible and as though the entire book — or any book — is wholly consistent in falling into one category or another. That is not the case.

Mr Maryn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) said that, although the book obviously contravened the existing Official Secrets Act, Sir Patrick was right not to prosecute.

But he should look at the other circumstances. "It is alleged that, while the report was being undertaken, details were passed on to a journalist in Manchester."

"Would he speak to the Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office and suggest, in the light of his findings, that senior officers who are put on to

investigations of other police forces should be given instructions as to how they should carry out those investigations, because they are very worrying allegations."

Sir Patrick said that he would undertake to pass Mr Rees' observations both to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Tom King) and to the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd).

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, asked whether one of the considerations of Sir Patrick in deciding not to prosecute had been that it might have been in the public interest for the public to have a right to know Mr Stalker's conclusions on his investigations in Northern Ireland, and, if so, whether that would apply in civil proceedings.

Sir Patrick said that he took into account all the circumstances in his criminal jurisdiction.

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## British Rail's chairman is accused of incompetence

The chairman of British Rail, Sir Robert Reid, was accused of being one of the most incompetent public servants in the country by Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport, during question time in the House of Commons.

Mr Snape said that groups as diverse as the Transport Users' Railway Development Society, Transport 2000, the CBI, the TUC, the Evening Standard Committee Club and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, had all complained of the inadequacies, strains and overcrowding of British Rail services.

Why was it that all that emerged were platitudes in reports by civil servants?

The only people who seemed pleased by the incompetence were ministers in the Department of Transport and the greedy road lobby.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said that new quality standards had been set and accepted by British Rail in July.

Punctuality, reliability,

## TRANSPORT

cleanliness, overcrowding, inquiry delays and queuing for tickets were covered by the new standards.

All had been accepted by the chairman of British Rail.

In the last six months of last year, there had been improvements in punctuality and reliability in Network SouthEast commuter services.

In a further exchange during transport questions, the question of overloaded goods vehicles was raised.

● About 20 per cent of foreign goods vehicles selected on a random basis between 1980 and 1986 were overloaded by more than 5 per cent, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions.

It was proposed to install weighbridges at Ramsgate and Immingham, the two main ferry ports that lacked them. Consultations were also being held with selected port authorities about testing automatic equipment for

## TRANSPORT

weighing incoming lorries.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said that as the maximum penalty in magistrates' courts was only £200 magistrates should at least be encouraged to impose the maximum fine.

Mr Bottomley said there must be an effective deterrent when people were caught.

"Overweight lorries are unsafe and are cheating. They cause more damage to the roads than they are paying for."

He said later that the need was to make sure that enforcement strategy was such that people would find cheating not worth while.

Mr Tony Lloyd, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that one problem identified after the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster was the danger posed by overloaded lorries on ferries.

Mr Bottomley was being complacent.

Mr Bottomley reminded him of his (Mr Bottomley's) earlier answer concerning consultations with port authorities about testing weighing equipment.

## Mayhew resists inquiry calls

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, resisted calls from both sides of the Commons for an inquiry into allegations of attempts by members of the security services to undermine the Labour Government of Mr Harold Wilson.

The Solicitor General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, defended the Government's refusal to enforce the lifelong duty of confidentiality of members of the security services.

Mr Tom Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) asked what was the alleged breach of security committed by Mr Anthony Cavendish (the former intelligence officer whose memoirs have led to actions against *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* newspapers).

Sir Nicholas said that, as a former member of the security services, Mr Cavendish owed a lifelong duty of confidentiality to the Crown and it was to enforce that duty that the actions had been taken.

Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C) asked why Mr Cavendish was not treated more lightly and generously than Mr Peter Wright.

Sir Nicholas: He has not been treated in any substantially different way as a matter of principle.

Later, Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North, Lab) asked Sir Patrick Mayhew what recent consideration had been given to prosecutions in relation to alleged attempts to subvert the Wilson Government.

He urged the Attorney Gen-

## SECURITY



Sir Patrick Mayhew: Charges investigated

eral to stop his inactivity.

"Many of us may feel that, by not having a further inquiry, he is condoning the security services of this country acting as the second team — the backstop — to the Conservative Party."

Sir Patrick said that, while he was responsible as the ultimate prosecuting authority, he was not responsible for whether or not there should be an inquiry.

"The Prime Minister is. She dealt with this very fully and to the satisfaction of the House in 1987."

In a later exchange, Mr Robert Cripps (Bradford South, Lab) called for the prosecution of Mr Cavendish. For whom Mr Peter Wright had provided information.

"It is hypocritical for the Attorney General to warily avoid the duty of confidentiality when he knows full well that information has been provided, with full approval of the Government, to Chapman Pinner, Chapman Pinner, as the Government's mouthpiece, should be subject to prosecution as well."

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## Tories refuse to admit defeat

There is only one thing worse than being beaten in politics, and that is to behave like a beaten person. It is a lesson that the Government seems to have taken to heart in Scotland.

Having lost 11 of 21 Conservative seats there at the general election, ministers have set out to seize the political initiative north of the border. Or, to put it another way, they are behaving as if it was the Scottish electorate, not the Conservatives, who got it wrong last June.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State, delivered on Friday to the CBI in Glasgow the third in a series of major speeches designed to convince the Scots that what they need is not less but more Thatcherism.

He extolled the enterprise culture as the alternative to subsisting upon a diet of indiscriminate subsidies. He welcomed privatization not just for the familiar reasons of increasing competition and responsiveness to consumers, but also as a means of transferring power from London to Scottish investors and Scottish managers.

Scotland is being invited, in other words, to stand on its own two feet. That is doubly daring because it conflicts both with what the Scots themselves were looking for at the last election and with how they have been governed for a great many years.

"What have they done for us?" was the question that so



Geoffrey Smith

many Scottish voters were asking in last year's election. During that campaign it appeared to me that the enterprise culture was more widely accepted than was generally appreciated in the Midlands as well as in the South of England. It was less so in the North and least of all in Scotland.

In one sense that was surprising. Scotland has not been doing at all badly economically. But the Scots have lacked self confidence and they have become accustomed to looking to the government of the day for economic salvation.

As the provider of jobs, housing and other social amenities, public authorities — both national and local — have historically played a much larger role in

Scotland than in England.

Successive secretaries of state in administrations of both parties have interpreted their role as being to secure as much economic support for Scotland as possible. They often acted as economic ambassadors from Scotland to their own cabinets.

When Mr Thatcher came to power there was no abrupt change of approach. That was understandable. Scottish secretaries of state have traditionally had to offer reassurance on two scores: to show not only that they were providing better government than the other nations would, but also that their land was getting an attractive deal out of the United Kingdom.

This second consideration was a very lively issue when the first Thatcher Administration took office. That was in the wake of the Scottish nationalist surge during the 1970s and within months of the inconclusive referendum on devolution.

But times have changed. Public attitudes in much of Britain have been transformed. The enterprise culture is now far more widely accepted. The Government can point to a record of substantial economic success — and the old political strategy has failed the Conservatives in Scotland.

There is, therefore, both a political and an economic case for the new approach. The political case can be summed up in the proposition: if you cannot

find the right answer, change the question. Thatcherite Conservatism is never going to win in Scotland. There is no success there goes to those who seem prepared to pay the highest subsidy.

The economic case is that if the enterprise culture works in England it should be extended to Scotland. But with it work, rather than it be accepted, there?

That will depend partly on whether Britain as a whole enjoys another four years of economic success. Those who feel they stand a chance of winning are always more eager to compete. So it is far easier to extend the enterprise culture at a time of general prosperity.

The prospects will also depend on the degree of political sensitivity that the Government displays. One of the reasons why it did so badly in Scotland last time was that it seemed to so many Scots an alien administration. They felt that Mrs Thatcher was a distant person with no real understanding of them.

The more that the Government appears to be taking trouble, above all the more the enterprise culture seems to be home grown, the better the chances will be.

Mr Rifkind will not transform long-standing attitudes swiftly or easily. But this is a more positive approach than has been applied to the government of Scotland for many a year.

## Peers back away from time-limit plan

Peers have backed away from a change that would have involved those of them who spoke for longer than 15 minutes being forced to leave the chamber at the stroke of the clock in the chamber changing to red.

The House of Lords procedure committee examined the reform, proposed by a group on the working of the House, but, because of disagreement among peers, decided to "look into the issue further."

However, the House of Lords yesterday approved the com-

mittee's report for a general tightening up of procedures to ensure the smooth running of the Upper House.

It was the final stage in an initiative announced by Lord Whitehall, the former leader of the House, in the wake of tension in previous sessions when the peers faced an unusually heavy workload and the Government suffered a series of defeats.

He set up an all-party group to investigate the working of the House and recommend possible changes.

As a result of a questionnaire to all peers by the group, it was decided to keep the present system of self-regulation and strongly opposed the idea of installing a Speaker with the sort of powers enjoyed by Speaker Weatherill over recalcitrant MPs.

The procedure committee did agree to make a report on any procedural difficulties that arose in a previous session. A new edition of the *Companion to Standing Orders*, the peers' rule book, will also be published

with greater emphasis on order and procedure.

The procedure committee has approved restrictions on question time both on the number of questions asked and the time taken. But it did not fully support the group's call for the leader of the House to intervene if questions go on for longer than 30 minutes. It recommended that it should be left to the leader's discretion.

*First Report of House of Lords Select Committee on Procedure of the House* (Stationery Office, £1.40).

## Ministers' shopping centre displeases MPs

The Richmond Centre was completed by November 1984 at an actual cost of £12.05 million. The Government sold the shops for £5.3 million and kept the office accommodation, which it had always acknowledged could never be let at an economic rent. The overall loss was calculated to be £5.15 million.

Under questioning by Mr Michael Latham, a Tory member of the committee, department officials said that Department of Environment and Department of Finance civil

servants had sent formal submissions to ministers warning of possible losses.

The ministers had decided to proceed none the less because they wanted to create jobs, restore commercial confidence, and improve Londonderry's image.

Mr Latham expressed surprise that "a Conservative Government decided to go ahead knowingly with a loss-making scheme in any corner part of Britain it would have been left to private enterprise."

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## Comic Relief demand refused

Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, resisted Opposition demands to match money raised by Comic Relief pound for pound. He said that government support for the Joint Funding Scheme, which matches the cost of agreed projects pound for pound, had been increased by 50 per cent to £9 million.

Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal spokesman on foreign affairs, asked for such matching of the money raised by Comic Relief and of other money raised voluntarily in this way.

Mr Patten said that such a commitment might be a headline-making gimmick but it might limit the amount of money for the Horn of Africa. So far, the taxpayer's generosity had exceeded that of those who gave to Comic Relief.

The taxpayer had given £36 million to Ethiopia, and in the Sudan he had announced an extra £15 million for that country on top of the £10 million made available just before Christmas.

## Grants for research

Lord Beaverbrook, paid tribute in the House of Lords to Britain's excellent scientists who ensured that the nation maintained a leading role in the development of superconducting materials.

He said that the Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Engineering Research Council had set up a joint national committee to co-ordinate support for industrial and academic research in this field. A £16 million, three-year programme, funded jointly by the DTI and industry, had been announced to stimulate collaborative industrial research on superconductivity.

"The SERC is providing £5.3 million over six years for the research centre at Cambridge and £2 million per annum for other research grants."

## Aids hospice gains £1.25m

The Government has approved two capital grants totalling £1.25 million to London Lighthouse, a hospice for Aids victims. Lord Selsketh, Under Secretary of State for Social Services, disclosed.

It had also given a £100,000 grant towards this year's running costs. "We are considering with London Lighthouse and the four Thames regional health authorities its revenue-funding requirements for the coming financial year."

## Gift of old textbooks

The Government is discussing a scheme to supply discarded old textbooks to developing Commonwealth countries with the Rotary Club and the British Council, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said at question time.

About £1.3 million from the aid budget is reserved for spending on textbooks for schools in developing Commonwealth countries this year.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions. Defence, Minister. British Steel Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, report, first day. Land Registration Bill, third reading.

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# Torment of policemen who face and fire guns

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Police officers involved in shooting incidents often suffer sleepless nights, bouts of crying and other physical and psychological effects months and even years later, a Home Office study says.

It recommends that firearms courses should include psychological training to help policemen cope with the long-term effects, as well as immediate emotional support after an incident.

The study of 25 officers who had wounded or killed while on duty, finds that at the point of greatest danger, most men became extremely calm. Four reported feelings of intense fear were rapidly replaced by overwhelming anger.

Distortions of perception were reported by about 60 per cent of officers. Two had not heard gunshots while another had not heard his colleague shout the required warning.

Time appearing to slow down and tunnel vision were also mentioned. The end of his adversary's shotgun looked like a pair of binoculars to one officer.

Another said he had hardly registered the sound of his own gun firing, but that of his partner seemed so loud that it was ringing in his ears for hours.

Only one man reported feeling terrified throughout an incident. He fired several bullets into the swing door in front of him and his hands were trembling so much that he had difficulty in reloading his weapon. The study says he acted with great bravery.

About two thirds of the officers had a marked emotional reaction. The study, reported in the February issue of *Police magazine*, says that in no case did the psychological aspects of killing or being involved in a life threatening situation form a part of the training course.

The report says mistaken identity can lead to the shooting of innocent people.

"It is the unexpected which is associated with such mistakes."

"They do not appear to occur in the course of the well-practised battle-drill which involve a certain necessary amount of ruthlessness and which was essential for the protection of the police officer and for the accomplishment of his task. No change is needed unless there were to be devised a quick acting means of immobilizing the criminal presumably temporarily so that he or they could be arrested without a gun battle."

About two thirds of the police involved in the research are still firearms officers. The study, described as "the first careful examination of post-shooting experiences of officers in Great Britain", was produced in response to a request by the Association of Chief Police Officers' working party on police stress, and recommends:

● Firearms training should prepare officers for the realities of a shooting.

● Immediate psychological support should be provided;

● Where possible access to a confidential counsellor should be offered;

● Whatever the outcome of the shooting incident, the officer responsible should not be ostracized by the police force.

The officer is likely to be in a state of physical and mental shock and confusion. The study suggests that some way of delaying the formal investigation should be considered to give the officer the chance to recover from the initial effects of his experience.

The officer should be protected from unwelcome publicity, and if suspended, he should have access to close personal friends in the service. The recommendations are being implemented.

After the shooting, immediate reactions varied from feelings of relief or even elation that it was over to quite serious shock. About half the officers interviewed said they had no regrets.

They felt they were justified in firing.

One or two of these, however, said that they felt sorrow for the dead man's family. The remainder felt sad or guilty about the wounding or death but had eventually accepted it. One officer tried to resuscitate the man he had killed. He remained distressed for a long time.

Emotional reaction among officers usually started several hours after the shooting, with the most commonly reported symptom being that of thinking over the incident repeatedly and continuously for days.

Other common experiences were loss of sleep, sudden waking, cold sweats, nightmares and bouts of crying. Some officers also reported digestive upsets and loss of appetite and one man said some of his hair had turned grey.

Feelings of anxiety and depression accompanied by some degree of social withdrawal were also common. In most cases the symptoms cleared within several weeks or months.

There were, however, at least three cases of severe post traumatic stress.

One officer wept occasionally 12 years after the incident. Another reported that he had no feelings about the man he had wounded. But he found the act of shooting was so repellent to him, because it was the complete antithesis of all he felt policing stood for, that he experienced a migraine continuously for several months and partial loss of sensation in the right side of his body.

A third officer suffered from severe depression for about two years and continuous digestive upsets. He played slot machines at the police club to distract himself and sought help only after incurring a large debt.

*Study of Post Shooting Experiences in Firearms Officers* by Mary Manolias, Scientific Research and Development Branch, Home Office, and Dr A Hyatt-Williams, Consultant Psychiatrist (Scientific and Technical Library, Home Office, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW, free).

## Firemen 'ran for their lives' from Tube inferno

Firemen told the King's Cross inquiry yesterday that they ran for their lives when the ticket hall was suddenly engulfed in thick black smoke.

Temporary leading fireman David Flanagan, of the Clerkenwell fire station Red Watch, said he received what are believed to have been the last orders of Station Officer Colin Townsley, among the 31 who died in the blaze in the Underground station on November 18.

"Station Officer Townsley told me to go back and 'make pumps four, persons reported,'" he said. The inquiry, now in its fourth week, has heard that this order was intended to warn fire brigade controllers that members of the public were at risk in the fire.

Mr Flanagan said he had walked only a few paces towards the exit when "the whole ticket hall area became engulfed in intense heat and thick black smoke."

"The whole area was then plunged into complete darkness and all that could be heard was people screaming. There was no time to start up our breathing apparatus sets."

"In order that we would not become trapped I shouted to the crew to get out. We then ran for our lives back along the subway we had entered by."

Temporary Station Officer Vernon Trefry fell over from heat exhaustion and feared he might die only feet from the flames in the station ticket hall, the inquiry was told.

Mr Trefry sat in silence as his evidence was read. He told how he and a crew faced intense heat in the ticket hall as they aimed hoses at the flames, amid badly burned

bodies. They were forced either to crawl or squat, because of the heat.

"I turned round, squatting, and at that point, my legs gave way from under me," his statement said.

"I managed to get squatting again and the men behind me asked if I was all right. I replied that I thought I was, but it was time for me to get out."

Questioned by Mr Lionel Read, QC, counsel for the London Underground, Mr Flanagan said when he first arrived in the ticket hall he had not seen anyone using the escalators.

"But in the last 30 seconds before we were engulfed in smoke, people started to come up the Victoria line escalator," he said. "That is when we knew something was going wrong."

Questioned by Mr Benet Hymmer QC, counsel for the Fire Brigades Union, Mr Flanagan said he had not been wearing PVC firefighters' gloves. Experience and knowledge of what had happened to others made him fear they would melt in extreme heat.

Fireman M. Singh said that just after Station Officer Townsley's order, they were suddenly, without warning, engulfed in intense heat and black smoke.

He was unable to start up his breathing set. "All I could do was turn and run back along the subway we had made our entrance from."

Visibility was nil and he shouted Mr Flanagan's nickname: "Bud, Bud" so he could get a bearing of which way he should go and so the crew could keep in contact.

The hearing continues today.

## Prison barricade men killed in cell blaze

By Kerry Gill

Two inmates at Craiginchies Prison, Aberdeen, died after a fire broke out in their cell on Sunday night, the Scottish Office disclosed yesterday.

Richard Hanratty, aged 25, was serving 18 months for assault and robbery, and Keith McEwan, aged 28, 12 months for motoring offences.

It is believed that Hanratty and McEwan barricaded themselves in their cell after lock up. Shortly before midnight officers saw smoke.

Attempts to rescue the men were thwarted by the barricade. The Scottish Office said there appeared to be no obvious explanation for the barricade.

Craiginchies yesterday held 180 inmates although it was

designed to contain 169. Overcrowding, however, has not been a problem at the prison which has escaped much of the violence seen at other Scottish prisons.

The prison holds mainly local men serving sentences of up to 18 months, although there are also a number of older, recidivist prisoners.

A report is being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal. The Scottish Prison Officers' Association will hold talks today with officials at the Scottish Home and Health Department aimed at trying to avert industrial action by their members at Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, who are protesting about overcrowding. More than 60 staff are on sick leave, mainly due to stress.

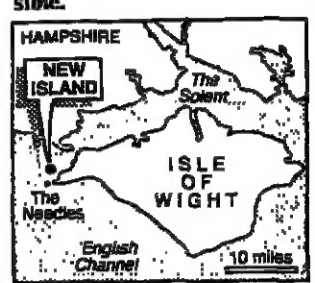
## Cricketers pitch Union Jack to claim new island



Cricketing enthusiasts David White, batsman, and Alan Deebank, have launched a sporting assault on a shingle island which has formed half a mile north of The Needles.

They live on the Isle of Wight and are members of the West Island Cricket Club who took their positions with the intention of claiming the new island for the "Empire".

The island has formed in the middle of the western approach to the Isle of Wight and is half a mile long, 250 yards at its widest point and 30ft at its highest point. A combination of exceptionally low tides and strong currents which swept up shingle lost from beaches during this winter's storms was responsible.



## Gardener awarded £80,000

A gardener who had a leg amputated after falling from a tree in his employer's garden has been awarded damages of £80,000 at the High Court in London.

Mr James Garrett, of Meadow Road, Wentworth, Surrey and his company, James Garrett and Partner Ltd, denied liability for the accident in 1983 to Mr Frederick Lay, aged 37, of Chaucer Way, Addlestone, Surrey. The settlement, against both parties, was made out of court.

## Inquest opens

An inquest was opened and adjourned in London yesterday into the death of a man believed to be Mr Derek Bainbridge, aged 40, of Worksop, Nottinghamshire, who burnt to death in a car near 10 Downing Street.

## Claim settled

A settlement was reached at an industrial tribunal yesterday between Mr Rory Miln, aged 37, former director of studies and head of classics, and Ruthin School in Cwtyd over his claim that he was unfairly dismissed last year.

## Poison alert

Packets of castor oil plant seeds, which contain a poison used to kill a Bulgarian journalist in London 10 years ago, should be kept away from children, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

## Marquess ill

The Marquess of Tavistock, aged 48, heir to the Duke of Bedford, is in a London hospital after suffering a stroke at his home, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire.

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## Jobs push up house prices

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Demand for property over much of the country is "loading the price rise shotgun", the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors reports.

In its house price survey for the quarter to the end of January it says that demand is outstripping supply in many areas, leading to a sellers' market, and the shortfall is pushing up prices. The North, in particular, has experienced high demand.

Of the 178 estate agents in England and Wales who contributed to the survey, 11 per cent reported price increases of more than 8 per cent, double the number compared with the last quarter, and almost one third showed increases of 5 per cent. Nearly half indicated rises of 2 per cent and only 16 per cent reported no change.

A survey of the North-west showed significant price rises, with 12 per cent of agents

reporting increases of 8 per cent (above the national average) and 27 per cent recording increases of 5 per cent.

One example in the North-west is a new industrial park outside Chester, which had provided a large supply of jobs, in turn boosting demand for housing.

Mr Peter Miller, the institution's housing market spokesman, said: "The demand for property has continued, with a resulting shortfall of supply in many areas. Of particular note is the continued prosperity in the North of the country."

● A building society chief has criticized a mortgage offer of four times the main salary and three times the second.

Mr Philip Court, chief executive of Birmingham Midshires Building Society, said that lenders had to make sure that they did not promote irresponsibility among bor-

rowers. "A lender's irresponsibility could well lead the customer towards financial disaster."

He expressed concern that as competition among banks, building societies and other financial institutions increased for mortgage business, so borrowers were going to find apparently attractive offers a long-term financial burden.

However, the Building Societies Association said yesterday that the number of people seriously in arrears with their mortgage payments went down in the second half of last year.

A total of 60,400 people were more than six months in arrears at the end of the year, compared with 62,560 at the end of last June.

The number of properties taken into possession also declined in the second half of 1987 from 11,540 to 11,090.

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## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Coalition hint to Waldheim to go

Vienna — The Austrian Socialist Party, senior partner in the ruling coalition, called indirectly yesterday on President Waldheim to resign, saying he had failed to keep an election promise to increase Austrian prestige. (A Correspondent writes.) In a five-point resolution it said the critical historians' report on Dr Waldheim's war record "has shaken the moral authority of the President at home and abroad."

The resolution said: "It is obvious that President Waldheim has failed to realize the most important goals which he had himself set, namely, to preserve the inner peace in Austria, and to increase the estimation of Austria in the world." It is the closest the party has come to calling outright for his resignation, but the Socialist coalition partner, the conservative Austrian People's Party, denied it amounted to a resignation call. Herr Fritz Koenig, parliamentary chairman of the People's Party, said the Socialists "must respect what the President has expressed, that being to remain in office." Waldheim's lesson, page 12

## Self-praise Pretoria by Delhi jet lost

Delhi — The Indian Government patted itself on the back yesterday for its economic strategy, and was especially proud about its response to the drought. (Michael Hamlyn writes.)

But the speech at the opening of Parliament by President Venkateswarlu is likely to be challenged strongly by the opposition in the next few days during the Budget debate. Yesterday's ceremonies coincided with a shutdown of all the capital's shops and markets in a tax protest. The stock exchange and commodity markets were also closed.

## Leader of the left Army role enshrined

Madrid — The Spanish Communist Party chose the bearded, charismatic Mayor of Córdoba, Señor Julio Anguita, as its leader yesterday, and gave him more power than the party apparatus had wanted to give him. (Harry Debelius writes.)

Señor Anguita imposed several conditions before accepting the post. One of them was to welcome back former comrades who were purged or who have quit the party during the tumultuous years since it became exposed to the glare of democracy — and not to ask them to change their views.

## Captive's TV plea

West Beirut — His face darkened by an incipient beard, Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, the US Marine officer serving with the United Nations who was kidnapped by Muslim extremists almost a week ago, appeared yesterday on Lebanese television. Right to plead with the United States Government to meet his captors' demands (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes.)

As he spoke, UN troops, staged a massive search near Tyre for him.

In his one-minute tape, Colonel Higgins said: "In order to get me released, these demands have to be met: 1. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories in Lebanon; 2. The release of all detained Mujahideen (holy warriors), Lebanese and Palestinian, from Khiam prison and from all other prisons inside the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine; 3. Stopping US intervention in Lebanon and stopping the sending of delegations to the Middle East area, in order to surround (sic) the gains of the Islamic revolution in occupied Palestine."

● WASHINGTON: The US Government said yesterday it would make no deals to win the release of Colonel Higgins.

## Flats collapse as the rains swamp Rio

Rescuers removing a man who was buried when a three-storey block of flats collapsed, killing at least 11 people, as torrential rains continued to fall on Rio de Janeiro. The man was one of 12 residents rescued alive from the rubble in Abolicão, a working-class neighbourhood in Rio's north zone, and rescuers said it was unlikely anyone else would be saved. (Mac Margolis writes.)

At least 70 others were known to have died in mudslides and collapsed buildings due to the rains. Senator Roberto Saturnino Braga, the Mayor of Rio, declared a "public disaster" and called in the Army to help with salvage operations.

As the rains continued for the fifth consecutive day, more than 8,000 rescuers were working round the clock to find victims buried under tons of mud, rock, and debris. Officials said the toll might well be double the official number of 70.

A month of nearly constant rains in the state of Rio de Janeiro has left 275 dead and 25,000 homeless.

The Civil Defence Department said that up to 11,000 in the city had lost their homes.



## Strategic weapons treaty disputes

## Summit detail stalls arms talks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Soviet and American arms control negotiators working on the fine detail of a treaty to reduce strategic missiles by 50 per cent have become immersed in fundamental disagreements over negotiating principles which were supposed to have been resolved at the Washington summit last December, according to diplomatic sources.

As Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, announced in Moscow that progress had been made in his talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the sources revealed that the Geneva negotiations were facing serious problems.

Key conflicts have been over Star Wars research, the different sub-limits on strategic missiles and, much to the annoyance of the Americans, a new play by the Russians to include conventionally-armed

cruise missiles in the negotiations.

On Star Wars (the Strategic Defence Initiative), the negotiators had begun their talks on the basis of the agreement reached at the Washington summit meeting.

President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev appeared to have fudged this controversial issue by stating that both sides would adhere to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty "as negotiated".

This left plenty of room for interpretation, and the US proposed to continue their research, both in the laboratory and in space, subject only to the financial restrictions imposed by Congress.

However, once the Star Wars talks got under way in Geneva after the summit the Russians changed their tune. They wanted a strict list drawn up of the tests that could be carried out under the ABM Treaty

and those that would be banned. "Basically, we wanted to carry on with the fudge, but the Russians weren't interested," one source said.

According to senior American sources, a number of arms control advisers tried to persuade President Reagan to agree to a list. But the president would not hear of it.

On sub-limits in strategic missiles and warheads, the negotiators began with the principle laid down in Washington that ballistic warheads should be cut to 6,000 on each side.

Sub-limits, or separate ceilings, should include a 4,900-warhead restriction for intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched missiles (SLBMs), and a 1,540-warhead limit on "heavy" ICBMs. Only the Russians would feature in this last category, with their SS 18s and SS 19s. The US MX missile would not be included.

But the Americans have refused to drop their demand that there should be a further limit of 1,550 warheads on missiles capable of carrying more than six warheads. These are the Soviet SS 24 and the American MX.

The US has claimed that these weapons are the most destabilising because of their multiple-targeting capability. As one senior American source said yesterday: "We want to single out these missiles out for discriminatory treatment."

The third problem is over submarine-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs). According to the wording from the Washington summit, there was agreement to negotiate a cut in these missiles as a separate issue. In other words, they were not to be included in the overall 6,000-warhead limit.

But in Geneva the Russians announced suddenly that if

SLCMs were to be reduced they would have to include those conventionally-armed as well. They argued that the Americans had agreed to include conventionally-armed missiles under the INF Treaty eliminating all ground-launched cruise missiles.

This was confirmed yesterday by American sources. "We didn't have a great investment in ground-launched conventionally-armed cruise missiles," one source said. However, the Americans do have a lot of conventionally-armed cruise missiles on submarines. The total is about 3,000, which is far more than the Soviet Union.

So when this tactic was raised by the Russians it was rejected immediately by the Americans. Sources said yesterday that this was clearly an attempt by the Russians to bring up an issue that they knew they would have to give way on later.

## Israeli law chief says beatings illegal

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Orders to Israeli soldiers to punish or humiliate by beating are "manifestly illegal", the Attorney-General, Mr Yosef Harish, has said in a strong letter to Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister.

The letter instructs Mr Rabin to make it clear to all in authority that beatings must not be used against anyone who has been arrested. He also told the Defence Minister to make sure that beatings were used only in order to help make an arrest.

Mr Harish also cast doubt on army claims that excessive beatings have been exceptional irregularities. He said in the letter that he has received so many complaints of abuse that suspicions had arisen that simply calling beatings "irregularities" did not truly reflect the real situation.

Tunis (Reuters) — Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, said yesterday that US-Palestinian contacts had taken place at the weekend before a planned Middle East tour by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. Prominent Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories met Mr Wat Chaverias, a US envoy, on Saturday, Mr Arafat said. According to Mr Arafat, Mr Chaverias said "no" to self-determination, an independent state, the PLO, and an independent Palestinian delegation at a peace conference.

His letter said that the need to clarify what is a legal order is vital for the morale of troops in the occupied territories. Israeli military law says soldiers can be punished for disobeying illegal orders. At the same time, they can be punished for obeying "manifestly illegal" orders. Mr Harish

is putting together directives which explain the difference.

Mr Rabin, who issued the general order to quell trouble by using "might, force and beatings" two months ago, has now admitted that "you cannot rule by force over one and a half million Palestinians". He told a Labour Party meeting on Sunday that this was one of the lessons he had learnt since the start of the unrest.

In the interests of national security, he said, there had to be Israeli withdrawals from occupied territories. This did not mean a return to the borders of 1967 or an end to Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

While the Defence Minister spoke of handing back territory, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, told a dinner in Jerusalem on Sunday evening that Gaza and the West Bank were "parts of our country". On the

other hand, he said, the Arabs saw Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jaffa and Galilee as "occupied territories".

He added: "Those who demonstrated and rioted, those who led the riots and incited the violence have not hidden their true objective. They cried 'Palestine is Arab' and openly demanded the whole of Palestine as theirs."

After a weekend of widespread violence in which five Palestinians died — bringing the official toll to 61 — yesterday was relatively quiet. There were, however, two small demonstrations by women in Nablus and Anabta in the West Bank.

Today is meant to be a day of hunger strikes and protest vigils. Tomorrow and Thursday are supposed to be marked by a general strike followed by demonstrations on Friday outside mosques and widespread protests on Saturday.

## Friends and foes shed tears for Swaggart, the repentant sinner

From Our Own Correspondent New York

There was barely a dry eye in the world of video-evangelism yesterday as friend and enemy vied to commiserate with the Rev Jimmy Swaggart, the powerful television preacher who succumbed to the sins that he had so ferociously castigated in others.

For Mr Jim Bakker and his

wife, Tammy, the couple cast out of their television empire after a sex scandal last year, news of Mr Swaggart's spectacular confession was a cause of "sorrow".

"Our hearts go out to them and their family," said Mr Bakker, who was chastised as a "cancer on the body of Christ" by Mr Swaggart after he confessed last year to sexual transgressions. Mr Bakker lost his job, his man-

sions and limousines. Mrs Bakker said she wept when she learnt that Mr Swaggart, whose weekly telecast reaches 500 million viewers worldwide, had been caught in a motel room with a prostitute.

The Rev Marvin Gorman, who brought the Swaggart sins to light, said he succumbed to similar emotions. "My heart has been deeply saddened by the news. We are praying for the Swaggart family; we are

praying for Jimmy, Frances, Honnie, Debbie, and the children."

Newweek magazine reported yesterday that Mr Gorman, a bitter rival of Mr Swaggart, had hired a detective to trace Mr Swaggart to the New Orleans motel room and presented photographs to the Assemblies of God church, in which Mr Swaggart is a pastor.

The detective let the air out

of Mr Swaggart's car tyres so Mr Gorman could arrive and catch him at the scene, according to the press reports.

Mr Swaggart contributes \$14 million (£8 million) a year to the Pentecostal church from the \$142 million a year income of his Louisiana-based ministries. The church is deciding what to do about its errant pastor, who said in his lachrymose pulpit confession on Sunday that he was stepping

down to await its decision. Mr Swaggart flew to the Montana church headquarters in his private jet last Thursday.

According to an official at the Jimmy Swaggart World Ministries, Mr Swaggart confessed that he had been plagued by a fascination with pornography since boyhood.

He told church leaders that he had not engaged in sex with the woman but rather had "paid her to perform porno-

graphic acts", the official told The Washington Post.

Mr Swaggart's weeping, whispering confession, relayed on television news nationally on Sunday night, was a big blow to the Assemblies of God balance sheet.

The scandal of Mr Bakker, the Assemblies minister defrocked for his sexual and financial sins, cut back donations severely.

Persistence had paid off, producing an agreement he believed would prove commendable and acceptable to Parliament. It was "a good day for Britain and for Europe."

Although the EEC would continue to deal with the budget, it would no longer be "distracted by squabbles over money".

The EEC also agreed yesterday to "roll back" selected industrial quotas in a bid to give fresh impetus to the current round of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) in Geneva.

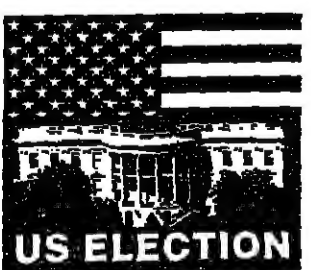
## Jackson preaches an underdog crusade

From Charles Bremner Philadelphia

"Run, Jesse, run. Win, Jesse, win." The chant rises from a sea of black faces in the Philadelphia ballroom as the Rev Jesse Jackson — preacher, superstar and "the next President of the United States" — stands to receive the endorsement of the Mayor and the city's Democratic machine.

Nobody moves a crowd like Jesse — even hardened campaign reporters use the affectionate first name. No wonder one magazine crowned him yesterday the best speaker of the presidential race. Charming, eloquent and inspired, he rouses his audiences with the cadences of the Southern revivalist preacher and brings them always to their feet.

"Say so, brother, all right," they shout from the back of the ballroom as Mr Jackson weighs in with his favourite theme — drugs. "We're not threatened by three million Sandinistas. Most of us have never seen a Sandinista," he bellows. "We are not defending our own borders against the drugs that are killing our children. We put mine-sweepers in the Persian Gulf. I



will put drug-sweepers in the Gulf of Mexico."

Mr Jackson, a driven 46-year-old who has never held public office, is sprinting the home stretch before "Super Tuesday" on March 8, when he aims to prove that he is a force not only among the blacks of the South but also among the disaffected whites who used to turn to the likes of George Wallace.

In Philadelphia, bastion of the Northern black working class, Mr Jackson mimes messages, proclaiming "unfished business" in the fight for rights in the South but quoting Mr Wallace's advice to him: "He said to me 'keep your message down so low that the goats can get it, down where the people live every day.'"

Expert thinking has it that Mr Jackson is still "unelectable" because he is black, and

also because he is too far to the left of the party. But the experts also believe that Mr Jackson will win such a powerful block of delegates on Super Tuesday that he could become a power-broker at the party convention.

It is highly likely that if the next President is a Democrat he will owe a big debt to Mr Jackson, and that is likely to translate into a senior Administration post.

Since his strong run in 1984 as leader of the "rainbow coalition" and a provocative advocate of black rights, Mr Jackson has softened his message and broadened his appeal. "Jesse has found he can turn on a white audience," says one of his aides.

Flying around the South in the past few weeks, Mr Jackson has shifted his focus from civil rights to economic rights. "The South has the richest soil but the poorest people."

Even in Iowa and New Hampshire, where only a tiny fraction of the electorate is black, Mr Jackson received about one in 10 of the Democratic votes. He expects to win more than 80 per cent of the black vote in the South,

while the white ballot is split mainly among Representative Richard Gephardt, Senator Albert Gore and Governor Michael Dukakis.

Presenting himself as a trouble-shooter and champion of the underdog, Mr Jackson can be found wherever there is a grievance. He flies in to address striking workers. He appeared as the only presiden-



Mr Jackson: Softening his message to widen appeal.

tial candidate at a Washington rally for AIDS victims. Even leaders of the notorious Teamsters' Union hailed him as a friend last year, after he supported their fight to prevent government officials taking control of their affairs. The Teamsters have a long record of corruption and association with organized crime.

To his critics, Mr Jackson is a dangerous demagogue, a silver-tongued showman who exploits his links with the late Martin Luther King. In a striking profile of him last month, Gail Sheehy, the writer, diagnosed Mr Jackson's drive as a "lust for legitimacy" stemming from his childhood in South Carolina.

"All these years Jackson has been tunnelling up, and in the long climb he has clung tenaciously to everything he could use, stepped over warm bodies, greedily dipped his fingers in the blood of his hallowed predecessor, shaken down businessmen, black and white... He has lived all his life as an outsider and learned to capitalize on it. Now he is within reach of what he has always wanted — to be accepted."

## US polls point to Dukakis as Democratic pacemaker

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Voters go to the polls today in two Northern states, South Dakota and Minnesota, and could do what those in Iowa and New Hampshire failed to achieve: produce a solid front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts is the firm favourite in Minnesota, according to the latest poll, with an 11-point lead over Representative Richard Gephardt. Senator Paul Simon, who is trying to save his fading candidacy in this traditionally liberal state, is bottom of the poll and is likely to suffer a fatal body blow.

A convincing Dukakis win in Minnesota's caucuses, with the lion's share of the state's 78 delegates, would make him the clear Democratic favourite heading into "Super Tuesday" on March 8. It would offer strong evidence that his overwhelming win in the New Hampshire primary was not just a neighbourly gesture.

Although Senator Simon has portrayed himself as an old-fashioned liberal in the Hubert Humphrey tradition,

pouring money into this Democratic bastion, the late Vice-President's home state has responded coolly. The polls are giving Mr Simon only 9 per cent, compared with 29 per cent for Mr Dukakis, 18 per cent for Mr Gephardt, 14 per cent for the Rev Jesse Jackson and 11 per cent for Mr Gary Hart.

Mr Gephardt is hoping to Washington — As President Reagan yesterday received the nation's Governors at the White House, to discuss federal issues, Mr Michael Dukakis joked that he was "just looking the place over" before he moved in.

do better in South Dakota, but a win in the sparsely populated Northern plains is worth little in terms of delegates and would be overshadowed by a Dukakis triumph in Minnesota. He was campaigning strongly in South Dakota yesterday, telling pensioners in Sioux Falls that they had a powerful voice in the election.

But one of Mr Gephardt's strongest cards — his Trade Bill amendment imposing pen-

alties on countries running persistent surpluses with the US — may soon lose its value as Congress moves to kill it. He has promised to fight on.

South Dakota has also been devalued for Senator Dole because the Vice-President, Mr George Bush, has pulled out of the state primary.

Mr Dole, who is expected to win comfortably, cannot now use a success to show a turnaround in his bitter struggle with Mr Bush.

In anger and frustration, he taunted Mr Bush yesterday for "turning his back on America's heartland" and for having failed also to campaign in Minnesota and in Wyoming, which votes on March 5.

"George Bush has left South Dakota for the same reason he skipped out of Iowa — he knew he was going to lose. But South Dakota is the nation's second primary, and can't be ignored by a front-runner," he said.

But the Bush campaign denied that the Vice-President was avoiding the Midwest, noting that he had already won delegates in Michigan

## France submits to EEC package

From Richard Owen Brussels

France yesterday withdrew from its threat to reopen the debate over EEC controls on wine, sugar and other agricultural products, thus reversing a stand which had risked unravelling the hard-won EEC farm package agreed at the Brussels summit meeting 10 days ago.

Both Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, welcomed the French move, and said that the way was now clear for Europe to achieve a single united market without frontiers by 1992.

Chairing a post-summit meeting of foreign ministers as President of the EEC Council, Herr Genscher said that the Twelve could now put their internal disputes behind them and tackle the "enormous tasks" involved in forging a common European foreign policy.

M Jean-Bernard Raimond, the French Foreign Minister, said there had been a "misunderstanding" over an attempt by M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, to raise last-minute obstacles at the summit over stabilising mechanisms for curbing output of "non-arable" products.

The summit concentrated during two days of tense, high-level drama on reducing dif-

ferences between Britain on the one hand and France and Germany on the other over controlling cereals and oil-seeds, regarded by Britain as the key to overhauling the common agricultural policy.

Because of this, the Brussels meeting had "taken as read" proposals on the non-arable products. M Raimond said France had simply been defending the principle that the EEC should not take decisions without a detailed discussion. But yesterday he waived French objections.

Diplomats said that M Chirac, who was involved in acrimonious exchanges with Mrs Thatcher, had made his stand partly to impress rural voters in the forthcoming French presidential election.

Sir Geoffrey said that with the French decision the "last piece of the agricultural jigsaw" was in place. Despite criticism that Mrs Thatcher had made concessions, Britain had achieved its long-standing objective of across the board farm stabilisers within a framework of legally binding limits, he said.

Persistence had paid off, producing an agreement he believed would prove commendable and acceptable to Parliament. It was "a good day for Britain and for Europe."

Although the EEC would continue to deal with the budget, it would no longer be "distracted by squabbles over money".

The EEC also agreed yesterday to "roll back" selected industrial quotas in a bid to give fresh impetus to the current round of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) in Geneva.



# Vasiliou says Cyprus must solve its own problems

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia

Mr George Vasiliou, the self-made millionaire who took Cypriot politics by storm with the defeat on Sunday of two veteran professionals in the election for the presidency, has reassured the island's estranged Turkish community that his aim is to bring Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots closer together and to restore mutual confidence.

The response from the Turkish Cypriots was prompt. Mr Kaul Denktas, their leader, in a statement congratulated Mr Vasiliou on his election and renewed his offer to meet the winner at the Ledra Palace, the United Nations building on the "green line" that divides the island between the Greek south and the Turkish north.

But Mr Denktas added: "It should be clearly understood that the meeting has to be between equal political entities, without prejudice to their respective religions."

Mr Vasiliou responded by saying that this condition was unacceptable. And he told *The Times* before his election on Sunday that such a condition would be tantamount to acknowledging the secessionist state that Mr Denktas proclaimed in the Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus in 1983. It has been

officially recognized by no country other than Turkey.

"It would be absurd to renounce the very existence of the Republic of Cyprus in order to have a cup of coffee with Mr Denktas," he said.

The omens for early Greek-Turkish contacts in Cyprus, along the pattern set by Greece and Turkey at Davos last month, have improved after Sunday's election. But the difficulties cannot be underestimated.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, who sent Mr Vasiliou a telegram of congratulation and reassurance, seems to have saved his advice for the new President for an address to the garrison officers of Ioannina, in north-western Greece.

He said: "For quite some time both Cyprus and Greece fought in terms of a triangle—Greece puts pressure on the Americans, who pressure the Turks to solve our problems. The formula is no longer valid. We must rely on our own resources to establish peace with Turkey through a dialogue on an equal footing."

The President-elect of Cyprus begins consultations today on the formation of a government which, he said, would reflect all shades of opinion on the island. He will appear

before the House of Representatives on Sunday.

One of his priorities will be to set up a national council, consisting of political leaders as well as prominent personalities. This organization will be given broad powers to advise the President on the Cyprus issue.

Mr Vasiliou believes that rather than wait for the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, to set negotiations moving again, the Greek Cypriot side should take the initiative. "We have been reacting passively to the actions of others for too long," he said.

But the recent hardening of his position on the question of the island's political future has raised doubts that such a procedure would be effective.

In his address to the Cypriot people yesterday, Mr Vasiliou explained what he meant by a "just and lasting solution". It would "ensure the withdrawal of all Turkish troops and (mainland) settlers, the right of return to their homes for all refugees, and the three basic freedoms (the right of free movement, ownership and settlement), and respect for human rights."

The cliché might have been an echo of statements by the

outgoing President, Mr Spyros Kyprianou, had Mr Vasiliou not added that, "while we shall pursue our targets relentlessly, we shall be flexible in our methods".

This is believed to have helped more than anything in the defeat of Mr Vasiliou's conservative opponent, Mr Glafkos Clerides, in the second round of voting. The margin was a narrow one—2.3 per cent.

It brought Mr Vasiliou, an independent candidate with Communist backing, an extra 30,000 votes from hardline Socialists, and about half of the 90,000 voters of Mr Kyprianou's party.

For centre and centre-right Cypriots, it was a choice of the lesser evil—between a new face sponsored by the Communists whom they mistrust, or their traditional right-wing adversary whom they have learnt to hate and often accused of planning to sell out to the Turks.

The fact that Mr Vasiliou has, himself, no party waiting to pounce on the spoils of power, as well as his reassurances that there would be no massive purges of those who have benefited from political patronage under the previous regime, tipped the scales in his favour.

# Scaffolding for the Sphinx



Workers setting up scaffolding on the Sphinx near Cairo before restoring a 660 lb limestone slab which fell from the right shoulder of the monument built by the Pharaoh Chephren in about 2,600 BC. The question of how to repair the damage has provoked heated debate, ending with the removal of Dr Ahmed Kadiyari as chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (Reuters reports). He had claimed that the Sphinx was "facing no danger at all", while the Culture Minister, Mr Farouk Hosni, said that the monument was in a critical condition and needed an international panel of archaeologists to save it. Mr Zahi Hawass, the archaeologist in charge of the Giza Pyramids area, gave a warning that the Sphinx could tumble to dust within 20 years without urgent scientific measures, and said the ground-water level beneath it had to be reduced. Now a committee of Egyptian and foreign archaeologists will decide on how to restore the slab and other weak areas.

# Guerrillas set free European aid team

Brussels (Reuters) — Several European aid workers abducted last week by rebels in northern Ethiopia have been set free, according to Médécins sans Frontières, the medical relief charity, said.

Two of those released were Belgian doctors, but a spokeswoman was unable to identify the others or to give their number. The workers, involved in famine relief, would return to Europe immediately.

Besides the two Belgian doctors, three Irish nuns working as nurses and a Dutch male nurse were kidnapped at the town of Idaga Hamus in Tigré province.

# Appeal date

Kuala Lumpur (AFP) — The Malaysian Supreme Court postponed to April 18 the hearing of an appeal by Derrick Gregory, a Briton, against a death sentence for drug trafficking. His brother is trying to obtain evidence from two witnesses serving prison terms in England and the United States.

# Groom killed

Brisbane (AP) — A bridegroom died at his wedding reception when an illegal fireworks display misfired and a piece of shrapnel from a rocket hit him in the head, police said.

# Lawyers out

Delhi (AFP) — Indian lawyers launched a one-day national boycott of all courts in an attempt to force the Government to sack a woman police commissioner they blame for a police assault on attorneys.

# Kurd fast ends

Rotterdam (AP) — A group of Kurdish asylum seekers gave up a month-long hunger strike after being told they would be allowed to stay in The Netherlands until fit to travel.

# Three to hang

Port Elizabeth (Reuters) — Three black South Africans were sentenced to hang for burning to death a suspected police informer with a petrol-soaked tyre.

# Agents held

Paris — Senegal said it had arrested three presumed Libyan agents, a week before the West African state is due to hold presidential and legislative elections.

# Campus shut

Lagos (AP) — The authorities closed Ahmadu Bello University in the north of Nigeria as students prepared a national protest against the detention of nine of their leaders.

# Chinese visit

Peking (AFP) — Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister, is to visit Britain and the US next month, diplomatic sources said.

# Technocrat shrugs off 'red' slur

From Our Own Correspondent, Nicosia

The voters of Greek Cyprus have placed the political destiny of the divided island squarely in the hands of a relatively unknown millionaire by electing him President for five years, thanks largely to the support of the local communist party, Akei.

Mr George Vasiliou, an affable, well-mannered and articulate technocrat who has built up a successful consultancy, dismisses as a joke the "red menace" campaign waged by his conservative rival, Mr Glafkos Clerides.

He denies being a Communist or that he has assumed commitments towards Akei beyond his political platform. "Call me a progressive," he says. "If I was in the United Kingdom, I would probably vote SDP."

His opponents have argued that even if he is good at making money he lacks the political experience to lead Cyprus to a resolution of its problems. But he dismisses the criticism. "Whoever said you cannot qualify for leadership unless you have served in Parliament?" he asks. "Good leadership requires good judgement and experience in life. And I have had plenty."

At 56, Mr Vasiliou can look back on a life of unusual adventure and often hardship.

He was born in Famagusta, the medieval town now desolate in the Turkish-controlled northern part of Cyprus, the son of a well-known eye surgeon and restless militant Communist who was a founding member of Akei.

He was studying medicine in Switzerland in 1949 when his parents responded to a call for physicians by beleaguered Communists during the Greek Civil War. He himself was left penniless in Geneva and joined his mother and sister

who had stayed in Budapest. He worked in a factory but studied at the same time and won his doctorate in economics. He then spent two years in London, specializing in marketing and market research.

"I could have followed an academic career in Hungary and been a Hungarian professor today," he said. "But the pull of Cyprus was irresistible."

He returned in 1962, when the island was already independent. His parents, who had fled to Tashkent in the Soviet Union with the defeated Greek Communists, also came back to Cyprus.

Mr Vasiliou guessed accurately that Cyprus was destined to become a Mediterranean services centre. He set up a marketing and economic consultancy that soon prospered with such contracts as the master-plan for the economic development of Riyadh. Today the business has a staff of 250 and branches in 12 countries.

Perhaps surprisingly, he was the only one of the four presidential candidates married to a Greek Cypriot, once the youngest barrister called to the Middle Temple. They have a son and two daughters, of whom the eldest is studying human geography at the

University of Reading.

In his *Dynasty*-style office of white marble and black glass, where historical biographies alternate with technical manuals on the bookshelves, Mr Vasiliou says he decided to go into politics because he believes that Cyprus needs a non-party President.

His key problem, of course, is that of the reunification of the island, which was partitioned by the Turkish invasion that followed the short-lived coup engineered by the Athens colonels in 1974 to topple President Makarios.

Mr Vasiliou wants to take the initiative in seeking a settlement. He favours close contacts with the Turkish Cypriots in the north, but without preconditions.

"We have been talking for 13 years, but never dealt with the key issues," he said. "It's like trying to buy property in London and haggle over details in the contract when we have not discussed the price."

"Our priority No 1 is to get all the foreign troops out of Cyprus." Did this include the British sovereign base areas? They are an anachronism, he replied. "We would like them to go, but realize that we cannot force them out."



Mr Vasiliou greeting his supporters yesterday.

# Zia's friendship speeds the hunt for abducted teacher

From Ed Gorman, Peshawar

The Pakistan Government is doing everything in its power, even to the direct involvement of the President's office, to find the diminutive 70-year-old English schoolteacher kidnapped on Sunday deep in the heart of the North-West Frontier province.

The disappearance of Mr Geoffrey Langlands, a personal friend of President Zia and described by a former colleague as having been responsible for the education of "practically the whole Pakistan Government", was still a complete mystery yesterday.

Mr Langlands, principal of Razmak Cade College for boys in North Waziristan, was abducted near Sarabi in the

tribal areas of the frontier while on his way to Peshawar. Though his personal assistant, Mr Gul Khajian, was released, there are still no definite indications as to who kidnapped him or why.

It has been suggested that his appointment to Razmak in 1979 was unpopular with local teachers, but it is thought highly unlikely that they would resort to kidnapping. There is a far greater chance that Mr Langlands has been caught up in a local tribal feud.

President Zia is stopping at nothing to find his friend, and has appointed the governor of the North-West Frontier province to take personal charge of the investigation.

Mr Langlands came to the sub-continent as an Indian Army officer, before transferring to the Pakistan Army at partition. In 1952 he became a housemaster at Aitchison College, Lahore, Pakistan's leading public school.

A British diplomat in Islamabad who briefly taught alongside Mr Langlands at Aitchison College, said that every year President Zia makes a point of inviting Mr Langlands and his charges for a tour of the National Assembly and tea in his private residence. "I suppose he's one of those with nowhere else to go, who decided to stay and for whom Pakistan has become his adopted home," he said.

# Balkan states meet to break free from feud-ridden past

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The foreign ministers of six Balkan nations meet in Belgrade this week for talks which could lead to unprecedented co-operation in a region associated more with feuds and wars than with accord.

It is the first meeting to gather together all the Balkan countries: Bulgaria and Romania, which are members of the Warsaw Pact; Greece and Turkey, members of Nato; Yugoslavia, non-aligned; and Albania, independent of both blocs and just emerging from decades of self-imposed isolation.

Tangled national and ethnic interests have often started armed conflicts in the area and bringing such a medley of nations to a conference table is an achievement in itself.

Yugoslavia took the initiative and met an immediate enthusiastic acceptance from Romania, Greece and Bulgaria. But it took some time to persuade Turkey, and still more for Albania to decide to take part.

An unofficial agreement has been reached for all participants to leave their differences at home so that the conference is not disrupted.

The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Mr Budimir Loncar,

said: "We have no illusions that the meeting will resolve all Balkan problems. But it could set into motion a new process of confidence-building." But historic antagonisms run deep and suspicions are easily aroused. The presence of minorities keeps the issue of territorial disputes on the agenda, even though they may not be mentioned explicitly.

The issue of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria continues to provide a source of friction between the two countries, because the Bulgarians refuse to recognize them as an ethnic minority.

Romania has a dispute with Hungary about Transylvania, where two million ethnic Hungarians are increasingly complaining that they are deprived of their national rights and exposed to a brutal assimilation policy.

The Yugoslav region of Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians now represent more than 90 per cent of the population, divides Yugoslavia and Albania and is the cause of fears and mutual recrimination.

Such problems, however, will be set aside for the sake of co-operation in the fields

where the Balkans have a common interest, such as multilateral economic co-operation, ecology, tourism and other fields in which history matters less than the demands of the present.

A Yugoslav diplomat said: "In order to enter the 21st century the Balkans must stop thinking in terms of the 19th century." Such public statements have been echoed throughout the region on the eve of the conference, which begins here tomorrow.

This is the first European multilateral conference which Albania is attending and as such it is no mean achievement, showing that they are open for openness in Tirana. But whether the intricate national minority issues will be kept out remains to be seen.

The first initiative for a Balkan meeting was launched 30 years ago, when Romania proposed a conference with the aim of setting up a nuclear-free zone, and having the Balkans free of foreign troops.

The proposal never made any progress, but Romania and Bulgaria are still pressing for it, even though the Yugoslavs say bluntly that such a proposal is unrealistic.

# Moscow woos Saudis after 50-year rift

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In the wake of the Kremlin's conditional promise to start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan this year, the Soviet Union is trying to improve ties with moderate Arab nations, notably Saudi Arabia, with which diplomatic relations were cut shortly before the Second World War.

Over the weekend Mr Viktor Polyakov, the influential director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, arrived in Riyadh for what Western diplomats claimed was the first visit to the kingdom by a senior Soviet official for half a century.

His unexpected trip came only three weeks after Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, visited Moscow for the highest level talks between the two countries since his own previous visit here in 1982. On that occasion, he was the first Saudi official to visit Moscow since his father, then Prince Faisal, came to the Soviet capital in 1932.

Last month Prince Saud was officially sent as an envoy of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, currently chaired by Saudi Arabia, and delivered a message to the Kremlin from King Fahd suggesting a United Nations Security Council meeting on

Iran's rejection of a ceasefire in the Gulf War.

The sudden exchange of visits, accompanied by the public declaration on Sunday by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that Moscow now hopes to increase its role in the Middle East, has inevitably rekindled speculation that the Soviet Union might renew ties with the kingdom which were broken in 1938.

Saudi Arabia, home of Islam's two holiest sites, is strongly opposed to communism and has no diplomatic presence in any Eastern bloc country. It has given support to the Muslim



Prince Saud: Took message to Kremlin from King Fahd rebels fighting Soviet troops in Moscow believe that the

Kremlin may be courting Saudi Arabia partly as a balance to its recently improved ties with Israel. An Israeli consular delegation to Moscow is expected to arrive within weeks on the first official trip here by Israel since relations were broken over the 1967 Middle East war.

In addition to the recent flurry of diplomatic contacts between Moscow and Riyadh, the Soviet Union recently bought 300,000 tons of Saudi wheat.

The official Saudi press agency reported that Mr Polyakov, who earlier visited Syria, Jordan and Egypt, on Sunday met Prince Saud and

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and handed over a message from Moscow for King Fahd.

Diplomats believe that if the Kremlin supports the UN resolution for an arms embargo on Iran and also keeps its word about pulling out forces from Afghanistan, the chances for a renewal of diplomatic ties with Riyadh will be higher than for years.

At present the Soviet Union has embassies in three countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council—Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates—but is not represented in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain or Qatar.

Moscow has been pushing hard for revived Middle East peace efforts. Last month Mr Shevardnadze proposed an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss prospects for an international conference, stating that the upsurge of violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip required urgent action.

During Prince Saud's visit here last month he was quoted as telling Tass: "We were very pleased to hear ... about Soviet readiness to do everything necessary in the international arena in the name of guaranteeing the rights of Palestinian Arabs through the convention of an international conference on the Middle East."

# Coup evidence points to Hirohito

From David Watts, Tokyo

New evidence shows that Japan's attempted military coup of 1936 was not solely the work of "uncontrollable" younger officers, as official accounts have tried to portray.

The new material, shown last night on the state television service NHK, raises questions about the extent to which the Japanese Government was involuntarily engulfed by the tide of militarism. It indicates that blame should be levelled at Emperor Hirohito, for having failed to control more firmly his senior officers and the then War Minister, Hasegawa Teraji.

Documents revealed for the first time show that Teraji at least knew in advance of the attempted coup. He used such vague Japanese in written instructions that he endorsed the attempt, which took place in the early hours of February 2, 1936.

It was led by 19 young officers who were financed by senior officers. The new evidence shows that the men believed the coup was accepted by the people and had the endorsement of the Imperial Palace. Those behind the coup attempt were later tried in

closed court without defending lawyers, and executed.

Details of the case have come out of 630 boxes of documents on the trial left by the chief prosecutor, the late Shunpei Sakikawa. He was ordered to close the case quickly as the war in China was building up. It took the NHK producer nine years to persuade the family to part with the material on which the documentary was based.

The coup attempt, in which eight politicians died, cleared the way for the full-scale military-backed Cabinet and the all-out war which followed.

# Gurkhas fly the flag for Korean peacekeeping

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

When the bullets fly between North and South Korea, special investigation teams are sent into the 2.5 mile-deep demilitarized zone between them to find out what happened.

One group, probing a burst of heavy machine-gun fire from the North last week, included Major Vaughan Smedley of the Royal Signals.

Today senior officers from both sides will assemble in a conference room in the heart of this bleak no man's land for a ritual exchange of protests and counter-charges at the 441st plenary session of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC). One of the officers will be Brigadier Tim

Hackworth of Britain, representing the Commonwealth. A Union flag will be flying in the vicinity.

In the unlikely event that the war of words escalates into armed conflict, Lieutenant Peter Barton-Smith may be called upon to defend Her Majesty's interests in Korea with his platoon of the 2nd Battalion, Second King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles.

That there are British soldiers serving in the divided peninsula is hardly surprising. More than 1,000 of their comrades died fighting with the Commonwealth Division in the 1950-1953 Korean War.

That they continue to serve a useful purpose in this outpost of the Cold

War is explained by Brigadier Hackworth, a senior member of the United Nations Command: "Our men serve as a permanent reminder of the British Government's continuing resolve to maintain the armistice and to encourage the formulation of a peace treaty."

"They fly the flag, and make the UN Command worthy of the name. It is important, especially during MAC meetings, to show the North Koreans they are dealing with troops from other nations."

That said, the British platoons which rotate every 10 weeks from Hong Kong fulfil mainly ceremonial duties, and Brigadier Hackworth is under remit to give no guarantee that they would be reinforced in an emergency.

"Our role is passive rather than active," he says. "It is a major achievement of the MAC that the fragile 'peace' has held for 35 years."

The small British contingent, with a total armoury of 50 Colt .45 pistols and 45 M16 assault rifles, also undertakes discreet personal protection duties.

Their future is uncertain, since South Korea anticipates achieving military parity with the North within the next decade. For the present, however, any British athletes concerned about a spot of bother with North Korean terrorists during the Seoul Olympics in September may be comforted to know that at least 34 Gurkhas will be close at hand.



سكرا من الامن



## SPRING, WHEN A YOUNG LADY'S THOUGHTS TURN TO SONIA RYKIEL.

Harrods proudly announce the arrival of Sonia Rykiel's new Spring Collection from Paris. A piece of timing as immaculate as the clothes. After all, what could be more suitable for this unpredictable time of year than a collection that includes long cardigan jackets, ballet wrap sweaters and jersey separates, all in pure new wool. (Indeed, Sonia Rykiel was one of the International designers featured in the recent Australian Bicentennial Wool Fashion Shows.)

Her colours this season are navy, putty, rose and black. And the look is completed with accessories, from bags, belts and scarves to a Panama and espadrilles. Maybe your thoughts should turn to our International

Designer Room on the 1st Floor. Shown above: Sweater, £252. Trousers, £203.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE



THE ARTS

Mind games

BBC 2 was embroiled in mind-body problems last night. *Split Screen*, with *A Legal Game*, was concerned with how much we should mind about what other people do with their bodies. This week's dialectical battle of films debated whether prostitution should be decriminalised. Earlier, *Horizon*, with *Talking*, asked whether a computer could ever "embody" the human mind and think like us.

No one asked whether computers, if they could think like us, would sell their services. This is, no doubt, because the nightmare image of computers maliciously controlling our lives is stronger than any hope that they will turn out to be more subversively user-friendly.

Thinking also started with menace. The narrator was not *Horizon*'s customary Paul Vaughan, whose reassuring tones confirm your faith, however wavery, in the progress of science. Instead, Juliet Stevenson did her version of Aum

TELEVISION

Massey's threatening "technological" voice.

Then there were the images. Faced with a complex intellectual problem, television seems either to send for a synthesising talking head or tries to match visually the complexity so that even the simplest elements are often made confusing.

Thinking began unpromisingly with a bemusing collage of images which boded ill for a discussion which easily confuses philosophical questions about whether computer performances, however brilliant, could be called thinking. But the programme soon settled down, token detractors notwithstanding, to a justification of the philosopher John Searle's denial of computer thought. Searle himself appeared as a lucid talking head, albeit with distracting back projections. The charming dramatization (in Chinese) of his famous Chinese room example actually made it more comprehensible - even if the strongest philosophical objection to it was not aired.

Andrew Hislop

Drawn from greatness

GALLERIES

David Bomberg  
Tate Gallery

David Bomberg  
Odette Gilbert/  
Gillian Jason/  
Bernard Jacobson/  
Fischer Fine Art

Merlyn Evans  
Mayor/Redfern

1914, "Sappers at Work" at the end of the First World War, and "The Bomb Store", which occupied much of his time in the Second; and sometimes around the places where he painted, most notably Palestine in the Twenties and Ronda, unforgettably, in the Thirties and again in the Fifties.

And this is where the unevenness shows through so alarmingly. Not that the Tate show has not been chosen fairly and with discrimination. But it has also, quite properly in an enterprise of this kind, tried to represent everything, wars and all.

There is no doubting the dazzle of the opening rooms. Even the very first works are bursting with talent: the drawings of biblical and Jewish themes, the unexpected paintings like the enchanting little "Lyons Cafe" (just a hat on a rack, reflected and re-reflected in mirrors), all seize the attention almost before Bomberg has hit his stride. Then the abstract, or at any rate boldly abstracted works of his experimental heyday, like "Ju Jitsu", "In the Hold" and "The Mud Bath" itself (all 1913-14), give us even today the shock of the new which must have been experienced a hundredfold by their first viewers.

After which comes the unfortunate tale of "Sappers at Work", commissioned by the Canadian War Memorials Fund, then flatly rejected and replaced by a second, much more directly representational, version. As it happens, I do not have such a low



Dazzling early Bomberg: "Ghetto Theatre", an oil from 1920, included in the show at the Tate

opinion of the second version, now in the National Gallery of Canada, as Richard Cork does. But clearly the whole business had a demoralizing effect on Bomberg, and it is difficult not to see the perfectly competent but rather dull landscapes he painted in Palestine in the Twenties as something of a capitulation.

With the Thirties, and his first glimpse of Ronda, at an extraordinary town on top of a chasm-entrenched in Southern Spain, Bomberg seems to get a new lease of life. The drawings of that time (very well shown in the show at Gillian Jason until March 18 and that at

Bernard Jacobson until March 12), as well as the landscape paintings, are splendidly vigorous. But what are we to make of the portraits and other figures compositions he undertook in the same years? Some find them among the peaks of his achievement, but to a cooler view they look like clumsy attempts to make "modern art", rather as though Bomberg felt uneasy with the other work he was doing. The fact that they have clearly been influential on Auerbach is immaterial to any assessment of their own inherent quality.

And so to the Second World War, and Bomberg's long involvement with the war paintings suggested by an underground bomb store he visited in Tubury. Here again, though the authorities can hardly be accused of even moderate understanding, it is difficult to believe, from the numerous rather muddled sketches and studies (apart from those at the Tate, there will be a whole group of them in the show due at Fischer Fine Art from March 10 to April 8), that anything approaching a crowning masterpiece would ever have emerged.

Wrong headed

Philharmonia/  
Sinopoli  
Festival Hall

It is hard to know quite what to make of a Bruckner performance where the basic necessities - or at least what one had always taken to be the basic necessities - are conspicuously lacking.

Giuseppe Sinopoli, conducting the Eighth Symphony last night, was so little concerned with continuity and musical momentum that quite extraordinary things began to happen.

The slow movement, of course, made no sense: its climax was so utterly unmotivated as to sound like a report of a performance happening elsewhere, and one of the grandest of Bruckner's grand *Lufpausen* was the merest empty space.

At the start of the finale, the magnificence and energy created by the assembled brass

CONCERTS

(who were on superb form) simply drained away in seconds. And in the scherzo each turn of the wheel was just another turn of the wheel, as if there were no possibility here of producing an invincible driving force.

This strange impoverishment Sinopoli achieved by his staccato presentation and his weakening of the last value on each cycle of the ostinato.

There were some compensations, if odd ones. Not many Bruckner performances, for instance, can call to mind Stravinsky (in detached woodwind choruses), Elgar (again in woodwind scoring), Vaughan Williams (in a diverting string chorale) and Mascagni (in the cello melody of the slow movement).

And the appearance of the first movement's main theme in inversion, which usually turns the whole world upside down, was here a disturbingly insouciant piece of sleight of hand.

However, it is hard to value these things as evidence of some attempt to demystify Bruckner, if only because other aspects of the performance, including most infuriatingly an inability to get tutti entries together, suggested instead, and more simply, inadequacy.

Paul Griffiths

Glitter, riches, mystery

LSO/Frühbeck de Burgos  
Barbican Hall

Not many violinists carry Viennese in their repertoire these days, but Viktoria Mullova has just put her performance of the A minor Concerto on disc and she gave it with cool elegance, accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra. Written as a prize work for graduates at the Brussels Conservatory, it invites more than technical bravura on the soloist's part and looks for poetic sensibility as well.

This Soviet-born violinist was happy to provide, not least in the central slow rhapsody on an operatic theme from Grétry. The extended opening movement gave her the material for an expressive cadenza that also serves a structural purpose, in linking the work into a continuous whole and while there was some opportunity for display, Miss Mullova preferred to reserve her silken glitter mainly for the *Introduction* and *Rondo Capriccioso*, by Saint-Saëns, that followed.

In the first of his three programmes with the LSO this week, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos prefaced the violin works with a different solo focus on the flute in Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, the performance affecting a languid, without being lax. Mysteriously, though, the flautist was not named in the programme, nor did she appear in the orchestra list; she even vanished from the platform altogether after the interval and was replaced by somebody else.

In this second part the conductor enriched the suite from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* with graceful solo strings and harp as well as vigorous rhythm, and included two of his own orchestrations of the *Suite espagnole* by Albéniz. These are not of the subtlest in instrumental effect, but a contrapuntal thread in "Granada" is cleverly woven and the exhilarating *sevillanas* of "Sevilla" was not to be denied.

David Robinson

Noël Goodwin

Fatally flawed reading

THEATRE

'Tis Pity  
She's a Whore  
Citizens', Glasgow

Philip Prowse and Jacobean revenge tragedy have for some years been a mouthwatering combination. Sure enough, this new look at *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* has implacable destiny, original sin and retribution, with death washing all around it.

The play has now been brought into the church, where incense lies heavy on the air. Only calico sheets, deliberately drawn across, sometimes divide off a private chamber. Bright, heavy white candles litter the stage, a shrouded cauldron tellingly doubling as a bed; hooded black figures shoulder

coffins through the church, filled with victims of the pestilence which rages without; bells toll. The scene is well and truly set for the incestuous but all-consuming passion between Annabella and her brother Giovanni.

The extraordinary power of Ford's play is that this relationship, damned by every taboo and by every law of God and nature, can seem good and positive when contrasted with the corruption all around it. This production does all the corruption wonderfully.

Rupert Farley as the Italian-hating Spaniard Vasquez, servant to Soranzo, is full of menace, a thin-lipped piece of incarnate evil, goading them all on. Ron Donachie as Soranzo, who eventually marries the hapless Annabella, is a great bear, tossing his bride high in the air in delight at the marriage, and then a wounded bull when he discovers she is with child by another.

Yolanda Vasquez, every bit as beautifully exotic as her name suggests, makes an irresistible Annabella, her repentance scene being particularly affecting. Tragedy there is aplenty.

Unfortunately it is not the tragedy John Ford intended, because all this good work is reduced to nothing by a very poor performance from Tristram Wymark. He plays Giovanni as a petulant, arrogant sub-Byronic boy, mangle the touching love poetry to his sister and suggesting that, far from being in the grip of uncontrollable passion for her, he just invented the whole thing to draw attention to himself.

It is about as wilful a misreading of a play as you could ever have the misfortune to encounter.

Robert  
Dawson Scott  
MARC ENGELHARD

Perfect happy return

RECITAL

Maria João Pires  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

This recital, given by a pianist who was forced by illness to abandon her career in the 1970s, provided the strongest possible evidence that Maria João Pires' newly flourishing talents are to be reckoned with those of the finest of her generation.

Hers was a decidedly non-extroverted programme, with the two Mozart sonatas, K330 and K331 with which she began, very much setting the tone for the rest of the afternoon. They were played not just with a remarkably clean touch, but also with the most refined sensitivity to tone-colour and phrasing.

She sustained the broad variations of the first movement in K331, for instance, with grace, tenacity and classical restraint; while her control over timbres, hard as well as soft, and her irresistible rhythmic impulse, in the Rondo alla Turca finale of that work, more than compensated for the marginal lack of physical power in her fingers. Indeed, that limitation was less of a shortcoming than one might have imagined, for it also meant that she was utterly incapable of making an ugly sound.

If the Mozart was revealing, Ravel's *Jeux d'eau* seemed perfectly suited to her touch and temperament. She gave the work quite ravishingly, shading each and every note in its sweeping torrents of arpeggios with delicate care, and playing as though the music lay effortlessly beneath the hands.

Such facility was only a foretaste of what was to come in Chopin's 24 Preludes. Time and again one was startled in this cycle by Pires' composure, her intelligent pacing, and her refusal to allow the sentimental to become sickly or the brilliant to degenerate to empty display. In short, she encapsulated the character and scale of each of these miniatures to perfection, whether in the harmonic meanderings of the A minor Prelude, or in the violent fury of that in B flat minor.

Diane Hill

Stephen Pettitt



Vivacious reflection: Jane Birkin with (in mirror) Agnès Varda, maker of *Jane B par Agnès V.*

Causes and clauses

BERLIN  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

The Berlin Festival public loves to demonstrate for causes; year by year there have been representations on behalf of political prisoners in Turkey or Iran, or the USSR or South Africa, or whenever the current black spot may be. This year the dominant causes have been Hare Krishnas in Russia, and saving Britain from Clause 28. I reported last week the circulation of a petition around the festival; subsequently there were various Clause 28 demonstrations and stage appeals whenever an appropriate film was shown.

The Germans' human rights argument is that legislation against defence of a minority is an automatic incitement to repression. Germans have perhaps a special sensitivity here, with memories of their own Clause 175, a vague and superficially fairly unexceptionable provision, only repealed in 1967, which gave Hitler the excuse to imprison or exterminate thousands of homosexuals.

The British threat scarcely seems that extreme; still, between Clause 28 and (in contrast) the huge Berlin ovation for Richard Attenborough's *Cry Freedom*, Britain had its share of the limelight.

The socialist bloc continued to offer *glasnost*-era confessional: from Poland came Janusz Zaorski's *Mother Krol* and Her Sons, an unsparring indictment of the perversion and crimes of the Party organization in the Stalin era.

The black times have been a regular theme for several years, but it is only now that the violence - the beatings and torture and forced confessions - are frankly shown. The film (the title is an ironic echo of a classic German communist film of 1929, *Mother Krausen's Journey to Happiness*) tells the story of the odyssey of a widow and her four sons, from the middle Thirties to the death of Stalin.

It is interesting to see contemporary domestic Soviet views on disarmament, in a feature-length documentary, *Risk*, which traces the history of atomic weapons from the Twenties to the Washington summit. The history is understandably selective and partial, though perhaps no more so than it would be in an American counterpart; and certainly Stalin - sending his own atom scientists to the labour camps - appears in no more kindly light than Churchill or von Braun.

Risk was shown alongside a new documentary in Fred Wiseman's epic series of examinations of American institutions. Missile patiently and objectively follows the daily life and work of a squadron of Strategic Air

Command ("Cornerstone of Peace") which trains Air Force officers to man missile launching centres. This is pure horror comedy: these pleasant young graduates do their job good-naturedly and without a moment's moral reflection.

They are confident that the planners will know the moment to launch the war, and their only anxiety is that they might fail to pass the exams. Even that is provided for in SAC: there are special classes to teach the art of cheating in tests.

Agnès Varda (whose most recent feature was *Vagabond*) sets a precedent with two films in the same festival. *Jane B par Agnès V.* is a collage of staged scenes and documentary, in the course of which Varda and Jane Birkin plan the second film of the diptych, *Kang Fu Master*.

This is a vivacious and charming socio-psychological comedy, but its theme promises to fall foul of the British Board of Film Censors. Birkin plays a lady who has an affair with a 14-year-old schoolboy friend of her daughter.

Predictably, the relationship does not end well. The film is very much a family affair, with Varda's son Mathieu Demy as the boy, Birkin's daughter Charlotte Gainsbourg as her screen daughter and all the Birkin family as her screen relatives.

FRENCH  
THEATRE

Mercier et Camier  
Créteil Maison des Arts

Even those whose theatrical bent does not usually curve in the direction of the work of Samuel Beckett, would find it hard not to be intellectually amused and thoroughly entertained by this premiere.

Originally a novel of the same name, dramatized and directed by Pierre Chabert, the work acquires a lucidity that makes it perfect Beckett for beginners. The Irish author's first work in French, written in 1946 but not published until 1970, it has plenty



Beckett prototypes: Jacques Seiler (left) and Claude Evrard

of scholarly depths in which Beckettians will find the embryonic personalities of Vladimir and Estragon, before they began to wait for Godot.

Chabert slims the unusually well-populated book down to its two central characters, Mercier and Camier. The other personages are trans-

formed into disembodied voices, neatly emulating the oscillation between visible and invisible which is an essential of Beckett's theatre.

Mercier and Camier are two ageing men, a pseudo-couple, who can neither be with nor without one another. Vagabond philosophers, they set out on a journey that takes them full circle around themselves. In this journey the then 40-year-old Beckett was then stalking someone, himself.

Beckett's poetic pen-portraits of Mercier and Camier are adroitly transplanted to the living stage, by Chabert's firm direction and by the strong interpretative powers of Jacques Seiler as Camier and Claude Evrard as Mercier.

Maintaining this high level of excellence is the voice of Guy Jacquet, who is not so much the narrator but the "author" of the play, manipulating Mercier and Camier according to the seeming improvisations of his own recounting of their story.

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**SCENESCAPE**  
HOLIDAYS



## SPECTRUM

## Thinking of success



Joan Baez: "I suppose it's my arrogance about not being relegated to the Sixties forever"

## The same old song but another cause

With a suitcase and guitar in hand, Joan Baez has been protesting now for 25 years. Bryan Appleyard asks why

Joan Baez had been worrying about the floods in Brazil and feeling guilty about the opulence of her suite at Brown's Hotel. "I'm ecstatically happy being surrounded by these beautiful things," she explains, "but there are those people in Rio de Janeiro sliding down a hill..."

A quarter of a century after she first emerged as a caring pop star, the laser beam of her compassion is undimmed. From black civil rights through Vietnam, Cambodia, Poland, Northern Ireland, Spain and Ethiopia, she has stood up to be counted on just about every lead story on prime time news. Her suitcase and guitar in hand, she has turned up on the doorsteps of Martin Luther King, Lech Walesa, Vladimir Bukovsky, Francois Mitterrand and anybody else whose name appeared next to a big issue on her shopping list.

Unlike almost every other pop star of the Sixties, she has persisted in the belief that her success was to be used as a political weapon. She still sings protest songs, she still campaigns and she still worries about The Bomb.

She is in London to give a concert and to publicize her autobiography. This is a relentless 400 pages which documents her sex life - including her one celebrated lesbian affair - her politics and, to some extent, her music. It is breathless, sentimental and wildly egotistical. Reading it is like being trapped in a lift with an emotional octopus and a vast selection of holiday slides.

"I was wondering what the English reaction would be to

the book - it's not exactly reserved. I hadn't had an album out for a long time and I needed to do something for creative release. I suppose it's something to do with my arrogance about being a relevant human being in the Eighties and not being relegated to the Sixties forever."

But does she think the book is her?

"Oh it's definitely me, right down to the flaws. There has been one criticism which I

**'There will always be a cause for people like myself'**

absolutely accept - my monumental narcissism which gets in the way of other things and stops me seeing things more clearly. I don't think there's much I can do about that."

She is convinced, however, that she can do something about everything else in the world. Most pressingly she wants to wake the United States from the long self-satisfied slumber of the Eighties.

"People are always saying these days in America that they feel good about themselves. I happen to think that is a reaction to the paralysis after Vietnam. They couldn't handle what had been done."

But what is so bad about the Eighties? There is no Vietnam and, so far, there has been no Cuba.

"Well, the world is falling apart. It was falling apart years ago but people seemed slightly more aware of it. Everywhere in the world people have a

love hate relationship with America - blue jeans and McDonalds - but we have no sense of reality about anywhere else in the world. I live in a society which is compassionate, the administration knows nothing about poor people, black people or old people."

All of which raises the question of what she would do if there were no causes left to fight.

"There'll always be a cause for people like myself. There will always be people who relate to the problems of the world and people who don't give a damn."

Perhaps the book's most striking passage is its coverage of the Live Aid concert. Baez opened the American end of the show and spent the rest of the day drooling over the horde of dazzling young men backstage - "I was overstimulated."

The sexual context combines with an obvious insecurity: she was unsure about her audience and uncertain about her role as a 45-year-old folk and protest singer among the scores of rock and rollers. Her personality, always shakily realized amidst the overwriting, finally seems to evaporate in a dim, pink, erotic aura of institutionalized benevolence. The cause and self-gratification become one; it is the apotheosis of the great Sixties illusion, Brown's Hotel and Rio in one perfect synthesis.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988  
And a Voice to Sing With by Joan Baez is published by Century Hutchinson at £12.95. Joan Baez's London concert is to be on March 16 at 8pm at Hammersmith Odeon.

## Still causing a stir

Some slang is as evanescent as slush in Soho. But other slang endures long after we have forgotten its original meaning. The international rugby season is only half over, but already the scrummaging hacks are speculating about who is going to win the wooden spoon.

Here is a headline from the *Daily Mail*: "A flat rate for the wooden spoonists". Don't ask me what it means. Headlines in the blats are for display rather than perspicuity.

Here is a very old metaphor that is still in robust health. It is reasonably well known that an actual Wooden Spoon, looking a bit like an ear, used to be presented to the last of the Junior Optimes, i.e. the man (no women allowed in those days, Best Beloved) who came bottom of those taking honours in the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge.

## NEW WORDS FOR OLD

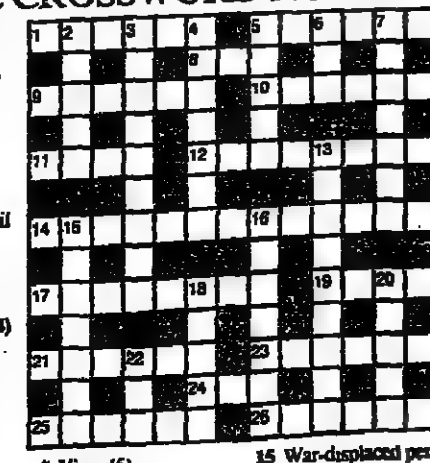
Philip Howard

In plainer words, it was the booby prize. It was a wet English public-school joke of the kind you would expect from the junior, cloth-cap-and-earmuff-conversations-about-the-meaning-of-life university. There is a reference in a Cambridge guide book published in 1803 to "Wooden Spoon for wooden heads: the lowest of the Junior Optimes." Byron referred to the custom in *Don Juan*:

Sure my invention must be down at zero,  
And I grown one of many "wooden spoons."  
Of verse (the name with which we Cantabs please

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1496

- ACROSS  
1 Spanish jacket (6)  
5 With hands on hips (6)  
8 Ruminant's food (6)  
9 Courteous (6)  
10 Throwing plate (6)  
11 Loose scrum (4)  
12 Domestic heating oil (6)  
14 Supreme happiness (7,5)  
17 Lounge (8)  
19 Faith subdivision (4)  
21 Leather softener (6)  
23 Dense (6)  
24 Condensed vapour (3)  
25 Cuff lining (6)  
26 Lic smugly (6)



- DOWN  
2 Last Greek letter (5)  
3 Skin softener (9)  
4 Back of skull (7)  
5 Viper (5)  
6 Christian emblem (1,1,1)  
7 Aluminium ore (7)  
13 Laughing Cavellian artist (5,4)  
15 War-displaced person (7)  
16 Square dance (7)  
18 Comes to earth (5)  
20 Harsh (5)  
22 Spelling contest (5)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1495  
ACROSS: 1 Chimney 5 Mace 8 Envoy 9 Takings 11 Scratchy  
13 Fun 15 Stockpile 18 Whim 19 Chastise 22 Tautum  
23 Dread 24 Helm 25 Repute  
DOWN: 2 Lever 3 May 4 Yitzhak Shamir 5 Moko 6 Conure  
7 Cease 10 Silt 12 Troy 14 Miss 15 Solstice 16 Sweet 17 Beads  
20 Inept 21 Grim 23 Dip

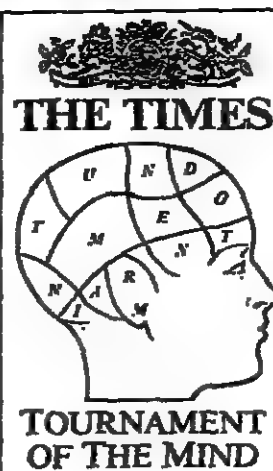
Start playing *The Times* Tournament of the Mind today. The tournament, with the questions devised and marked by Mensa, will prove a test of the sharpest brains challenging not only word power, numeracy and logic, but cunning also.

Harold Gale, British Executive Director of Mensa, says: "The contest will become progressively harder as the days turn into weeks. However, some contestants might not actually feel the competition getting more difficult because they will begin to have found out for themselves the short cuts to the solutions. Mind games of this kind are largely a question of practice and routine."

"I would say that of those who are scoring full marks on the questions at the beginning, only about 30 per cent can expect to keep up this standard right until the end. But we shall see."

"It is crucial when taking part in the tournament to be sure you understand the question and be meticulous in answering it. They are carefully devised and checked and will have only one correct solution. It is important to double-check each question carefully to ensure that you have not missed a vital but hidden pointer."

"For example, we have already had people complaining that the answer in the miscellaneous section of yesterday's sample questions - finding the value of a particular square in a grid of numbers - which was the most difficult problem that day with a points value of 5,



Starting today, a four-week long challenge of brain power and cunning with the chance to win £5,000 and an IBM computer

should be the figure 2 and not 1, as we said.

"If they had thoroughly read the question and followed the instructions, and then filled in the whole grid, they would have seen that the answer could not possibly have been 2."

"The numbers had to check off without repetition on diagonal as well as on vertical and horizontal lines. What they had obviously forgotten was that a diagonal can consist of

as few as two and three squares."

The first set of questions in Round One today are all of moderate difficulty, as indicated by the point score accompanying each question. The first stage of the tournament will be played over the next 20 days with the questions becoming increasingly difficult, bringing the total score possible to 1,000 points.

The readers gaining the top 100 scores will be invited to join the Tournament Final, which will be played in *The Times* over one week. The individual winner will be named *The Times* Mind of the Year, receive a trophy and also a cheque for £5,000.

In the schools section any number of teams of up to 10 pupils may enter from any school to win an IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 computer for their school. The top 10 teams will also be invited to join the finals to find the outright winner.

Do not send in your answers until the end of the 20 days of competition when the address will be given for entries. And do not be put off if you get stuck on an occasional question and find yourself unable to answer it.

Your total score is what counts and all the top 100 readers will have a chance in the final. As Harold Gale says: "I will be very surprised indeed if many people manage a full score."

And above all let the tournament be fun, play it as a family, or with a group of friends.

The prize is yours if you have the mind to win it.



## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

ROUND ONE - The Tournament of the Mind starts here. Try to tackle all the questions, but do not send any of your answers yet.

## LOGIC

Each row, column and diagonal line containing five numbers adds up to 60. You must find the missing numbers to discover the value of the question mark.

13	15	2		
14	14	14	3	
14		12	9	10
10	9	10	10	21
9	?			11

## VERBAL

Which four letters can be placed after STATE, FIG and TOR in order to form three new words?

## MATHS

If you look at the following groups of figures you should be able to work out the logic which will enable you to discover the value of the question mark.

(15 25 = 35) (17 13 = 20)  
(12 42 = 50) (10 58 = ?)

## MISCELLANEOUS

The change in your pocket totals £16.38, made up of only four types of coin of the realm. You have 91 of each type. What are the coins?

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Who wrote *Kane and Abel*?
- In which county is Grassmere?
- Which is the taller: the Telecom tower, London (formerly known as the Post Office tower) or Blackpool tower?
- Who wrote the theme tune to the film *Chariots of Fire*?
- Which war ended in 1953?



## ROUND ONE - ANSWERS

Fill in your answers here, cut out the coupon and store it somewhere safe along with all future coupons until the Tournament ends.

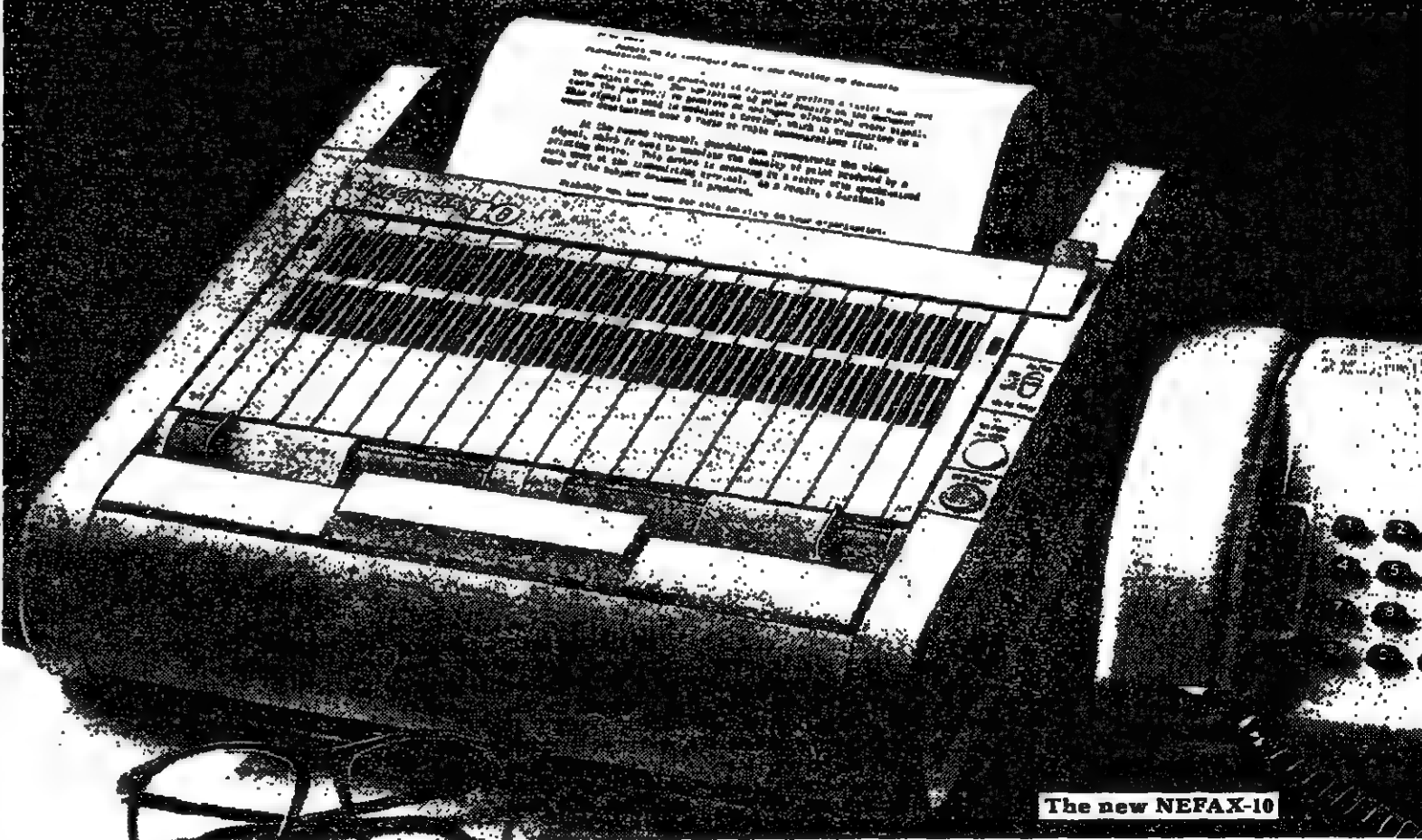
## PUZZLES

Answer 1 ..... Answer 2 .....  
Answer 3 ..... Answer 4 .....

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Answer 1 .....  
Answer 2 .....  
Answer 3 .....  
Answer 4 .....  
Answer 5 .....

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# TIMES DIARY

BARBARA AMIEL

The first cup of tea on my British Airways flight to Toronto brought home to me one of the more telling differences between transatlantic cultures. The hand offering the tea belonged to Mr Edward Jarrett, whose badge identified him as a "steward". This would be prohibited on an Air Canada flight, where the drive against sexist language has replaced "steward" with the antiseptic "flight attendant". Despite my nostalgia for those young, beautifully groomed creatures who in an earlier unenlightened sexist age were called "stewardesses", Mr Jarrett reminded me that there are great advantages in encouraging men to replace women in such jobs. They are prompt, unflappable and courteous. Mr Jarrett managed to be meticulous about safety regulations without that awful trait commonly found in females of officiousness. Never mind if men are better executives, which they may or may not be, they are far better at menial jobs than women. Perhaps I have been wrong in fighting affirmative action and job quotas for persons of different genders or sexual orientation.

When I arrived at my sister's home in Toronto the entire family was grouped around the television set watching the Winter Olympics, except for my sister. It was the opening ceremonies that put her off, she told me. First, there were the chuckwags tearing around the stadium. This was followed by ladies from Quebec in white aprons carrying brooms doing a dance. It was the federal government's idea of Canada, she explained. This aspect got worse as the preparation for the games proceeded. There was the 18,000-kilometre run across Canada with the Olympic torch being carried by 6,520 carefully picked representatives of Canada, not forgetting the snowmobile, dog sled and wheelchair population. It was four months before the torch arrived at a giant tepee in the stadium. Then, the hauntingly beautiful national anthem of Canada was performed at the opening of the games by a lone native Indian singing in the Dease language, which is understood by perhaps 0.0005 per cent of the Canadian population. When the crowds tried to join in the chorus of the anthem, they discovered it was being sung in alternate lines of French and English, which reduced everyone to complete silence. Most Canadians speak English most of the time and rather enjoy singing their national anthem.

Just before I left London I read that females were to be hired for duties in Britain's male prisons but that they would not be given work that could compromise the privacy of male inmates. This worried me, because Canada has been using female guards in all its penal institutions for many years. Recently, the Mounted Police stopped using women in their lockups when the men complained that they disliked women watching them in the lavatories or in a state of undress. The women pointed out, correctly, that part of their job was to check up on prisoners when they were not expecting to be watched and, in particular, to supervise them carefully in the lavatories, where concealment of drugs or weapons often took place. The RCMP was taken to task by the Human Rights Commission, which argued that it was discriminatory not to allow women to guard men. The tribunal hearing the case disagreed but the Canadian government ignored the decision.

It simply baffles me. I don't understand why, if a woman wants to be a guard or a warden, she can't be one in a female prison. There is some ingrained modesty that even a convict has about his naked body and intimate acts, and it seems to me wrong to take away the last remaining shred of a jailed man's dignity by appointing women to watch him squatting on a toilet. I thought this was why the United Nations passed a covenant, to which we are signatory, forbidding men to guard women. It is this insane drive for equality that now seems to take us past all consideration of humanity and common sense.

BARRY FANTONI



'I wish that 727 would get out of the way of the TriStar. I'm trying to see Concord'.

As part from the Olympics, the Canadian newspapers are full of the tales of a man named Muhammad Issa Mohammad, 44, who has been quietly living with his wife, three children and stuffed toys in the small city of Bramford, Ontario, for over a year. It seems that he had an attack of Waldheim's disease and forgot to mention on his application for landed immigrant status that he had been convicted by a Greek court in 1968 for his part in a two-man PLO attack on an El Al airliner in Athens that killed one passenger. He received a 17-year sentence but was deported to Lebanon in 1971 in a hostage trade. Mohammad's lawyer is arguing, among other points, that he has been rehabilitated in the years since the incident. I mention this because Canada has also passed a law allowing its courts to hold war crimes trials, and I think Mr Hurd, who is considering the same thing, might take a look at moral relativism in action. I wonder, for example, why the quiet lives of men who committed Nazi crimes over 40 years ago can't be used to demonstrate their "rehabilitation". I suppose it just depends what country or ideology is in or out of favour.

A major objective of this Government has been to improve the quality and reduce the quantity of administration doing the Government's business. Using deregulation and privatization as instruments of policy, we have narrowed the frontiers of "government business" with some success. But there are still 600,000 civil servants, and the number of local authority employees has been more contained than reduced.

Those of us who have played a significant role in this realize that, on quality of administration, there is still little to crow about. Sir Robin Ibbes has passed judgement and finds the Civil Service remains characterized by diffusion of responsibility, widespread lack of accountability, confusion between ministers and permanent secretaries over their respective responsibilities for the management and delivery of services; preference for involvement in policy formulation rather than management and implementation; a lack of managerial experience, expertise and confidence, especially at senior levels; performance reviews that are "neither rigorous nor sustained"; preoccupation with financial input rather than effective delivery or output; centrally determined rules and reg-

Michael Heseltine on the reforms urgently needed in Whitehall

## Clear the desks for action

ulations that are "structured to fit everything in general and nothing in particular"; a system within which "changing the rules is assumed to be impossible".

Few headmasters would be as dismissive of their charges' endeavours as that. Not even a "could do better" to imply at least the talent if not the will!

Twenty years after Fulton and six years into the Government's Financial Management Initiative (FMI), Sir Robin's diagnosis is depressing, especially so for those of us who know how able and dedicated are many of the public servants sentenced to work within this system. Present-based and centralized decision-making constrains initiative and frustrates flair. Prolonged exposure turns the would-be manager from rough diamond to smooth pebble.

Sir Robin tackles his subject head-on. First, he recognizes that the Civil Service is too big and diverse to continue to be micro-

managed from its centre. He argues that line managers should be given greatly increased authority; that the price for such authority should be greater accountability; and, recognizing that a market for public sector management hardly exists, he argues one should be created.

The acid test for the report lies in its recommendations for creating such a market, where pay and performance and supply and demand are to be much more closely related than Whitehall's "centre", (for which read "the Treasury") has allowed.

The key recommendations call for "agencies" to be established within a policy and resources framework much more loosely controlled by government. Much of the Government's response accepts agencies, but within the Civil Service, which might be thought akin to asking Nero to run Imperial Rome's fire services.

In my view there are five clear

objectives that need to be pursued, and can only be pursued by a government as strong and wilful as this one.

First, the division of the personnel and training functions between Cabinet Office and Treasury is opportunist, reflecting more the need to contain Civil Service unions than highlight the attention to career planning and preparation found in the best private companies.

Second, in drawing the distinction between small numbers of policy makers and large numbers of administrators the report fails to advocate terms of employment for administrators that are based clearly on results. The Armed Forces now have fixed terms of employment, with promotion if merited or retirement on generous terms. New entrants, at least to the Civil Service administrative world, should follow that precedent.

Third, it points to performance reviews that are neither

rigorous nor sustained. That is quite right and this failure will continue for as long as there is no basic system of management information in common form across Whitehall departments, costed, published and scrutinized against quantified objectives wherever possible. Whitehall is not about the pursuit of profit, but ought to be about the pursuit of standards and their delivery. Too much detail is left buried, thus unchallenged.

Fourth, the creation of an enterprise culture will not take root in the public sector until there is far greater interchange of senior appointments into and out of the private sector. Only a fool would believe civil servants are not up to the rigours of the market place; the best are leaving in droves to excel in that very market place. The good governance of Britain needs more of them and their private sector peers back in public service, at least on short-term contract.

Fifth, there is now an urgent need for a much wider dispersal of civil servants' jobs throughout the country. This should happen not in any penny-pinching atmosphere of parsimony but as a recognition of the opportunities of the technology-assisted office, the sophistication of modern communications, the dangers of over-heating in the South and the desirability that the public sector should negotiate pay locally and in small units within centrally controlled cash limits.

I strongly support steps to enhance efficiency in government. There is so much to be gained if we really shift the debate in Britain away from cash inputs to service outputs. The proposals in *The New Steps* are aptly titled, for they are no more than that. Urgently and expertly implemented, they should provide the start point for far more sweeping changes to clear away the job-for-life, salary-by-seniority regime that continues to separate the Civil Service from those it aspires to administer.

Two years ago, Anne Mueller, the Permanent Secretary in charge of bringing about the shift of emphasis in Whitehall away from advising towards doing, said that the Civil Service had developed a "bias for action". We shall see.

T.E. Utley

## Honouring town hall humbug

Tory politicians with a penchant for political philosophy have been saying for many decades that part of the essence of English conservatism is strong aversion to centralized power and, accordingly, a passionate belief in the virtues of local government. This seed, for so long diligently sown in the public mind, is now producing a bitter harvest, for almost everything which Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet is currently engaged in doing seems on the face of it to be designed to reduce local government to minimal proportions. So it is, most conspicuously, with the proposed legislation on education and housing, and so it arguably is with the poll tax.

Confronted with this charge that they have betrayed one of the fundamental principles of conservatism, the stock answer of the Tories is that they have not. The need to prove that proposition, however, causes them increasing embarrassment. Ever charitable towards this party, I would like to suggest an alternative approach. I think the Tories should now examine the historical and intellectual credentials of their respect for local government. If they do so, I suspect they will discover that these credentials are extremely thin, and that this particular element in Conservative doctrine is a relatively modern heresy.

I will be told, of course, that in 1888 the great Lord Salisbury created elected county councils. In fact, these were bodies with modest powers, kept under the most strict parliamentary supervision. To suggest they were the ancestors of the vast metropolitan authorities and over-weening borough councils which now exist is a distortion of history.

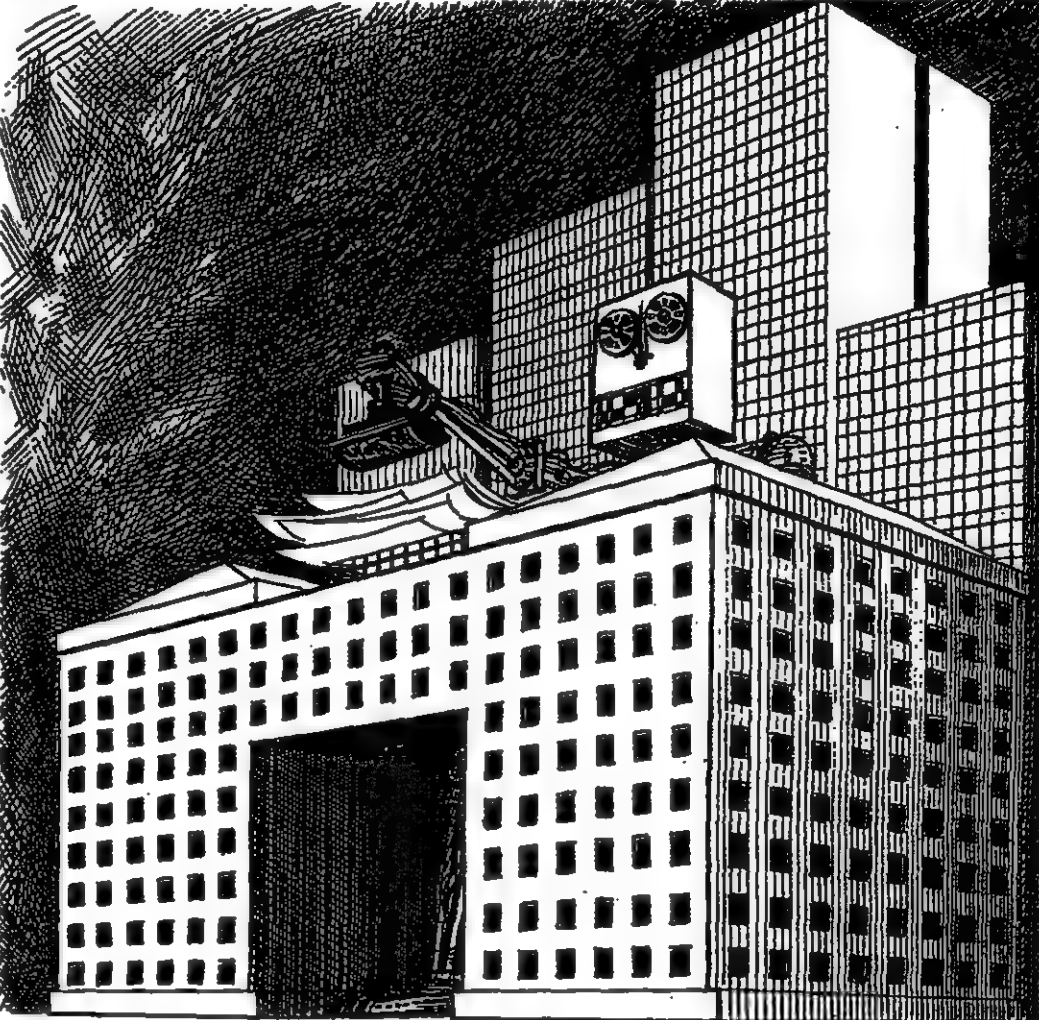
I will also be reminded of those immortal, wise and deeply moving words of Edmund Burke: "To be attached to the sub-division, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ as it were) of public affections. It is the first link in the series by

which we proceed towards a love to our country and to mankind." But did Burke have in mind the GLC? Did he, indeed, have in mind local government in the technical sense at all? Of course he did not. He had in mind all those private associations and loyalties — to the family, the village, the profession and the trade — which, in a healthy, stable and free society occupy the minds and evoke the energies of most people for most of the time. Conservatives ought to believe that it is essential to the welfare of society as a whole that there should be independent and competing centres of power within society.

The creation of vast structures of local government, wielding coercive power, ridden with tyrannical bureaucracy, failing conspicuously to command even enough interest from their subjects to induce most of them to stagger to the polling booths, and far more exposed to the perils of corruption than is central government, would not have appealed to Edmund Burke.

In all this discussion, there seems to me to be one huge confusion. It is the confusion between the centralizing of power and the concentration of excessive power in central government. The first is not necessarily bad, the second is always bad.

History gives us no reason for supposing that relatively small political entities like city states are particularly liberal. Calvin's Geneva has not gone down to posterity as a model of the free society. What matters is not the location of power, whether in a borough council or a Secretary of State — but the extent of the power and the rigour with which its exercise is controlled. To transfer powers from local authorities to central government may be, and in contemporary Britain mostly is, a liberating act. It is a pity that Mrs Thatcher's intellectual mentors have on the whole failed to grasp this distinction.



These thoughts were put into my mind by reading an admirable pamphlet on the opting out clauses of the Education Reform Bill (*Opting Out*, by Sheila Lawlor, Centre For Policy Studies £3.90). I am profoundly suspicious of much of Mr Baker's education policy and of Mr Baker in general. His original plans for subjecting the universities to the control of a system of national bureaucracy dominated by himself was presumptuous and appalling. It is said that thanks to vigorous criticism it has been much modified. Nevertheless, on this as on all other

points, this column will continue to have its eye on him.

However, the opting out clauses of his Bill are being attacked for the wrong reasons. Their aim is to enable schools which resent the tyranny and ham-handedness of local authorities to escape into the protective custody of the Secretary of State. This is not the frying pan into the fire as you might expect, since the Secretary of State's powers (with the exception of a few which could be amended) are to be carefully limited and regulated. I think that this is, in principle, a

liberating measure — liberating for parents, for teachers and almost everybody else with a genuine and practical interest in the education of children. In practice, nevertheless, I suspect it will be a flop.

To exercise the rights that will be given to them under this legislation, parents will have to enact some very complicated procedures requiring an immense taste for arduous committee work, lobbying and the like. They will have to purchase the manumission of their schools by petitioning governors, participating in ballots and so on.

Morally healthy people in a free society have very little inclination to spend their evenings in that way. The people who do get a kick out of that sort of thing are for the most part cranks, middle-class Alliance types with an abstract interest in education.

During the great debate about the trade unions, there were those who said that the thing to do was not to reduce the power of the unions, but to encourage the silent majority of sensible workers who cut union meetings to exert their democratic rights and out-vote the loonies. Happily, this view did not entirely prevail, precisely because it was understood that there was no way in which ordinary people could be induced to spend a great deal of their time in collective political activity of this sort. The way to increase choice is to give to individuals acting for themselves the power to make it.

This is why, I think, the voucher system would have been preferable to opting out. If parents were given by government a voucher representing the cost of educating their children in the state system, and then allowed to spend it inside or outside that system, supplementing it with their own money if they had a mind to, a real enlargement of freedom would be conferred on them. The Government would not grasp this nettle, yet the slack it is getting over opting out is not much less than it would have got had it adopted the simpler and clearer alternative.

Maybe the voucher system would have cost too much money, but so assuredly will opting out if it takes on. Could it be that Mr Baker really hopes that it will not take on? That he has found something that will seem to the Prime Minister to be a liberalizing and radical measure, but which will in fact leave the present deplorable arrangements comfortably undisturbed? Well, it could.

Commentary • BEN PIMLOTT

## Waldheim's lesson

Pillorying a decrepit old monster is a safe, savage sport. But what should the Waldheim campaign really be about? What ought its implications to be for our own times? Absent from the protests has been any suggestion that present day objectors who do take the drastic step of rejecting immoral pressures ought to be treated with a proper understanding.

In the eyes of his accusers, President Waldheim's crime was not the initiation of slaughter, but a morally blind commitment, a career's devotion, to the wishes of his employees. His critics argue that there are limits beyond which no soldier or civil servant should ever go if not under immediate physical threat; and that there is a higher, universal code, superior to military orders or official ideologies. The historians' commission makes the same point and so, implicitly — in its diplomatic cold-shouldering of Waldheim, in its timely inquiry into war criminals allegedly resident here, and in its reopening of the file on executed British commandos — does the British Government.

But if such a code exists, it must apply with equal rigour to all soldiers and officials, not just those who served in the name of infamous regimes. If the hue and cry against Waldheim has any purpose, it must surely be in part as an example to others and as a deterrent. It must apply as much in democratic countries as in authoritarian ones, in peace as well as in war. Above all it has to depend not on the wisdom of ministers or courts or even public opinion, but on the lonely, individual judgement of those who face unhappy choices.

There is the interesting case, recently reported, of the playwright William Douglas-Horne, who refused to take part in a wartime British attack on a German-held town because he believed that it would result in unnecessary French civilian casualties. He seems to have been vindicated: there were no British losses in the assault, but 2,000 French civilians died during the preliminary British bombardment. Nevertheless, he was court-martialled, imprisoned and cashiered. Today, in the light of the principles upheld by the Waldheim inquiry, Douglas-Horne is considering seeking a free pardon. If he succeeds, or gets some signal of forgiveness, an important precedent will be set for soldiers in future wars.

What, meanwhile, of the civilian public servants? Inevitably, most cases never come to public attention. But recent examples show little official consideration for tender consciences. Sarah Tisdall, the clerk whose convictions led her to leak the date of the arrival of the first cruise missiles, and was sent to prison; Clive Ponting, the assistant secretary whose stomach turned at being required to mislead Parliament over the sinking of the Belgrano, and who was saved from jail only by a jury's sense of fair play; and John Stalker who, like Ponting, sacrificed his career to pursue truth and prevent the concealment of it. Each, and others who have left more quietly, has made the kind of decision — sometimes arrogant and occasionally misguided, yet often sincere and courageous — that most of us feel Lt Waldheim should have made in 1944.

According to the historians, if he had resisted orders he would

probably not have faced execution. Nor, indeed, has that been the fate of British peace-time refugees. Nevertheless, the harsh official reaction towards internal critics who have felt driven to highlight serious mistakes, and the extreme reluctance of government to permit the serious investigation of abuse, are matters that should give our nation pause, at a time when we are contemplating the past sins of others.

Britain, it will be said, has a cleaner record than many of its neighbours. Certainly in every wartime occupied territory where there was a degree of collaboration with the Germans, cases of officialdom behaving in ways which today may be judged immoral or criminal must be countless. But this is not something about which this country can be smug. In retrospect, who could now be regarded as braver a British bomber who took part in the notorious Dresden raid, or one who refused?

Arguably, we might be an even prouder nation if, during the war, there had been more William Douglas-Hornes. So too in peacetime. The Waldheim affair has become a focus for that most comfortable and untaxing of emotions, moral outrage. It might, instead, be turned into a useful lesson, if some of the most vociferous denouncers of Nazi crimes now turned their attention to those Britons who find themselves in conscientious conflict with the state — and to considering how such people might better be protected from political vengeance.

The author is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Birkbeck College, London University.

SCIENCE REPORT

## X-raying Earth

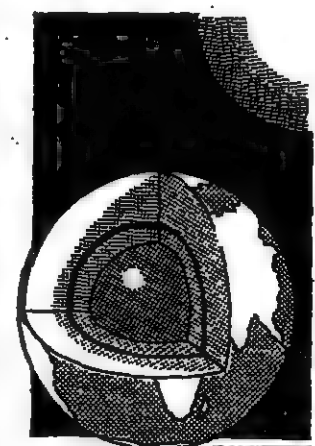
A scheme for using the most elusive known particles of matter as a way of studying the deep interior of the Earth is now being worked out. The aim is to produce the equivalent of X-ray images of the Earth's interior, using instead of X-rays the particles called neutrinos, which interact so weakly with other kinds of matter that most of those reaching the Earth pass straight through it.

A. Nicolaidis, of the University of Thessaloniki in Greece, now argues in the journal *Physics Letters* that although the neutrinos copiously emitted from the Sun mostly pass straight through this planet, there should be subtle changes in their character, providing clues to the distribution of matter within the Earth.

Neutrinos have no electric charge, and although there have been some suggestions that they may have a small amount of mass, this must certainly be much less than the mass of the electron, otherwise the least massive of all the material particles of matter.

Neutrinos pass through solid matter far more easily than light through glass. Whereas an inch or two of shielding will stop most particles of matter, the average neutrino would pass through a lead block thicker than the distance to the nearest star.

The proposal to explore the Earth with neutrinos has grown from the surprising discovery last decade that the Sun emits only about a third as



JOHN LEMMON

many neutrinos as expected. Previously, it had been thought that the temperature at the centre of the Sun and the thermonuclear reactions powering it were so well known that the numbers of neutrinos released by the nuclear reactions could be accurately calculated.

The numbers are huge. At the surface of the Earth, more than 10,000 million neutrinos pass through every square centimetre every second. Only by building huge detectors and sensitive instruments can they be detected, at a rate of only a few every day.

Strenuous efforts have left the discrepancy between expectation and reality unresolved. The explanation most favoured is that the Sun and the neutrino detectors are working as they should, but that something happens to the neutrinos in transit. One

possibility arises because there are now known to be three similar but distinct kinds of neutrinos. If the Sun's neutrinos, which are all one kind, transform as they travel into equal numbers of all three kinds, then the dilemma is resolved: the neutrino detector, which registers only one kind, records only one third of the total number.

In the hope of testing these speculative ideas independently of what is happening in the Sun, the Israeli physicists Arnon Dar and Ady Mann suggested in *Nature* last year that the Earth itself be used as a test device.

The principle is that neutrinos should transform into other kinds more rapidly when passing through solid matter than empty space, which should mean a small but noticeable difference between the numbers of neutrinos detected by day and at night.

Nicolaidis has now turned this argument on its head, arguing that if the Earth can be used to test neutrino theories, neutrinos can be used to test the structure of the Earth.

With a neutrino lamp on one side of the Earth, and a detector on the other, the internal structure of the Earth could be mapped out, much as modern medical devices can look inside the human brain by carefully shining X-rays from all angles. But there is a snag: the only bright neutrino lamps we have are better known as nuclear bombs.

DAVID LINDLEY





1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## PHANTOMS IN COURT

When Mrs Nigel Lawson made her unscheduled court appearance to answer a drink-driving charge last December, the haste and privacy of the proceedings drew widespread condemnation. The handling of the case strengthened suspicions that there was one law for the rich and well connected, who could keep their brush with the law to themselves, and another for the less privileged, whose misdeeds would be placed on record in the local newspaper and held up to public opprobrium.

In Mrs Lawson's case, the apparent attempt to limit information and access probably drew more attention and more adverse comment than if the prosecution had proceeded in the usual way. It transpires, however, that other defendants are more fortunate. According to a report published yesterday by the Association of British Editors (ABE), there are numerous cases in which the parties involved have successfully evaded publicity altogether.

The ABE declines to speculate as to whether court officials (through deviousness or negligence), solicitors (intent on protecting their clients' interests), or journalists (through insufficient knowledge of court procedure) bear the greatest responsibility for this. From a survey of more than 900 local newspapers, however, its report provides a catalogue of the methods by which publicity is avoided. Cases may be heard unannounced ahead of schedule; they may be transferred to a different court or even to a different district; reporters may be barred from the proceedings without cause, and reporting restrictions may be imposed unjustifiably.

Whatever the method, the result is the same: the public is denied knowledge to which it is entitled and a person whose reputation might be damaged by a court appearance is spared embarrassment. Among the beneficiaries have been not only celebrities and political figures, but also (with disturbing regularity) people connected with the courts or the judiciary.

Such a situation is clearly unsatisfactory. Much of the blame is being attached to Section 11 of the Contempt of Court Act (1981) which

is so loosely worded as to allow a court to restrict reporting almost at whim. While it may have been intended to protect national security, the identity of a minor or the safety of an individual or his family, the survey suggests that they are being used increasingly to protect an individual's reputation — with no legal justification whatever.

Court officials give a different explanation for not giving details of cases: financial exigency and confidentiality. "Cuts", some of them say, mean they have neither the staff nor the funds to provide information to the press systematically — even though newspapers are generally prepared to pay for the service. Others claim (wrongly) that the Data Protection Act prevents them from releasing personal details of the defendant if they are held on computer.

The failure of courts to provide reliable information to the press about the cases they have heard would be a cause for less concern if details of the verdicts were routinely available afterwards. But this is not so. As the law stands, individuals and the press are entitled to know the outcome of all court cases except those in which local newspapers and the public probably have the greatest interest: criminal cases heard in Crown and magistrates' courts. A register of the decisions is kept, but the public has no right to see it. Individuals and representatives of the press will only obtain details at the discretion of the court.

At present, this discretion is exercised inconsistently across the country. The ABE report praises Coventry Magistrates' Court, which uses its discretion to supply a daily list of court cases (with full details of the defendant, the charge and the names of counsel) and — at the end of each day's proceedings — a complete list of judgements.

If Coventry can supply this information, there is no reason why other courts should not do the same. If it takes a pronouncement by the Lord Chancellor to restore confidence in the lower courts, in the form of a directive to all courts, that should be forthcoming.

## THE EXAMINATION THAT DOESN'T

Parents, teachers, employers and everyone else interested in education have good reason to worry about GCSE, the new school-leaving qualification which is beginning to provoke such anguish now that the first 600,000 pupils are nearing the end of their two-year course. Although some of the classroom innovations that have accompanied it are welcome, the examination, as it stands, has always been misconceived.

Its egalitarian ethos — the fear of separating sheep from goats — is misplaced. The undue emphasis it puts on notions like empathy with the subject at the expense of factual knowledge of it is a serious mistake. The GCSE was promoted and embraced as a key part of "child-centred" education. It allows pupils to be assessed entirely on their coursework. It is an examination which abolishes examinations.

In language, it rates conversational facility above grammar. In history, it rates interpretation above fact. In mathematics, it rates the application of skills above their acquisition, the very issue that led Mr Kenneth Baker to reject the interim report of the mathematics working group which was supposed to be laying the ground for the national curriculum.

There has been far too much seductive but empty chatter about how GCSE will allow all pupils to show what they know, understand and can do. There has been far too little talk of academic rigour and ensuring minimum standards of literacy and numeracy.

None of that is surprising. The philosophy underlying GCSE reeks of its provenance: the 1960s liberalism of an education establishment always more concerned that children should be "happy" than that they should be tested and stretched. And it was Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph, would-be apostle of excellence, who approved it all and pushed it through.

It is doubtful if she has ever felt the need to pay homage to these eponymous forebears. If she did, she would know where to find most of them. Elizabeth I lies safely at Westminster; Victoria at Frogmore; and Matilda at Faversham. But how will the Prime Minister take recent reports that the Queen of the Iceni may be buried under Platform Eight at King's Cross?

With a pinch of salt, one might reply. British Rail, which has invested heavily in hundreds of tonnes of archaeologist-proof concrete for the "site", certainly hopes so. BR's chairman, Sir Robert Reid, must even now be marking the paragraph of Tacitus in which Boudicca (as he calls her) takes poison after her last battle — somewhere in the Midland region.

It would certainly be an undignified resting place for such a heroine. Boudicca gave the Roman Empire a major fight. Her armies (even accounting for exaggeration) slaughtered tens

of thousands of Nero's occupation troops. Tacitus gives her rebellion the divine endorsement of a blood-red ocean, a falling statue, unexplained shrieks in the theatre, and various other portents beloved of Roman historians and their readers. Nineteen hundred years on, she deserves better than the clutter of commuting feet.

Boudicca's battlefield oration opens with the nicely prophetic line that it was "customary with Britons to fight under female captaincy". It closes with the words: "To fight or fall, that was the destined purpose of a woman. Let men live and be slaves if they chose." Mrs Thatcher's Churchillian speechwriters have not been pillaging here yet — but give them time.

Platform Eight would be a most unsuitable resting place too. Boudicca (almost as much as the Prime Minister) is noted as a saleswoman for road travel. Her example did much to popularize the chariot. With knives on her hub-caps, she epitomized the free-wheeling individualism of the Celts as they faced the impersonal military machine of Suetonius Paulinus. She would never have approved of the railways — not even if her mausoleum were to be renamed Queen's Cross.

## FIT FOR A QUEEN

It was once fashionable to patronize Britain's first woman Prime Minister by recalling the country's former glories under feminine sway. On different occasions, depending on which of her sceptical ministers was briefing the lobby, Mrs Thatcher was Boadicea, Gloriana or Matilda, as well as being Queen of all values Victorian.

It is doubtful if she has ever felt the need to pay homage to these eponymous forebears. If she did, she would know where to find most of them. Elizabeth I lies safely at Westminster; Victoria at Frogmore; and Matilda at Faversham. But how will the Prime Minister take recent reports that the Queen of the Iceni may be buried under Platform Eight at King's Cross?

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## Asylum seekers

From the Director of Amnesty International

Sir, You report (February 15) that Mr Tim Renton, Home Office Minister of State, is hoping to reintroduce an amended version of the system of referring cases of rejected asylum seekers to the UK Immigrants Advisory Service before returning them to countries where they fear persecution.

From the asylum seeker's point of view the amended system is not an improvement on that withdrawn, without consultation, by the present Home Secretary in March, 1987. Moreover, two vital points such a system provides only representation, not a review by an appellate authority, and operates entirely at the Home Office's discretion.

Amnesty International believes that a statutory right of appeal, to an independent appellate body is essential if bias and errors of judgement are to be avoided; the refugee agencies have proposed a system of appeal that would be swift, fair and offer protection to those genuinely at risk of human rights abuse in their own countries.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIE STANTON Director  
Amnesty International British Section,  
5 Roberts Place Ek 1  
Leamington, SE13  
February 16

## Problems of managing the NHS

From Dr Maureen Dixon and Mr Philip Hunt

Sir, The easiest way out of facing up to the current problems over the health service is to put the blame on managers, administrative staff, or health authority chairmen and members. But it is surprising that a doctor of Ian McCall's eminence should pursue this simple-minded scapegoating of the managers ("Put the doctors in charge", February 16).

We are sure that many of the managers in the health services, among whom a number of doctors do figure by the way, would be only too glad to hand over the incredibly difficult decisions they have to make each day to the doctors. How would these most "intelligent of hospital personnel" cope with an underfunded pay award, runaway expenditure on equipment and drugs, an increasing waiting list and last-minute injections of badly-needed cash from a Government under siege? It is not surprising that many of the doctors who have taken on management jobs are returning to full-time clinical practice.

Unpalatable as they may be to those of Mr McCall's persuasion, the facts are clear. The NHS has the best record of any public service for increased efficiency over the last four years, and it is the managers, not the doctors, who have achieved this.

Since 1981, the NHS has taken on more doctors, nurses and midwives. The number of doctors and dentists employed by the NHS has risen by 5 per cent. Administrative staff have only risen by 2 per cent during the same period.

The NHS is one of the most "undermanaged" health services in the world. We spend less than 4.5 per cent of the total budget on management, compared with 12 per cent in France and 21 per cent in the United States.

There have been real signs recently of doctors and managers working together to improve the quality of the NHS. Mr McCall's "bureaucrat bashing" is not likely to improve the climate of co-operation.

Yours faithfully,  
MAUREEN DIXON (Director,  
The Institute of Health Services Management),  
PHILIP HUNT (Director,  
National Association of Health Authorities),  
75 Portland Place, W1,  
February 16.

From Dr P. W. M. Copeman  
Sir, The consultation concerning the ailing NHS hospital service conducted in your columns pays scant regard either to its anatomy — staffing structure and management — or its physiology — the way the service functions — but concentrates largely on the feel.

Salaries and wages cost more than buildings and equipment. Each patient is costing more now than in 1948 because more employees, working fewer routine hours, are needed to accomplish the same quantity of work.

## Doubts on GCSE

From Mr C. J. M. McGovern

Sir, Mr Peter Dines, chief executive of the Secondary Examinations Council, has recently been quoted (report, February 16) as stating that my concerns over the new GCSE examination are "an aberration" and that the remainder of secondary schools are not expressing similar concerns.

Whilst he is incorrect in this belief, he may be relieved to know that the disciplinary action I am to face for expressing my views (reports, February 13, 22) should ensure that other teachers remain silent.

## Liverpool's record

From Professor C. J. Humphreys

Sir, Under the heading "Grants cut to universities with poor research ratings" you record (February 12) the fact that the University of Liverpool has been allocated a grant by the University Grants Committee for 1988-89 which is 2 per cent greater than that for the current financial year and thus represents a cut in real terms. It would, however, be unfortunate if this were to give the impression that Liverpool has a poor research record.

The Science and Engineering Research Council has recently announced that one of the first five interdisciplinary research centres to be established will be at

## Hidden talents

From Mr Anthony Jones

Sir, Shridas Marley (Diary, February 18) asks, "How many men and women famous for non-painting achievements have left attics full of canvases to amaze posterity?" I recall the first time I met the late Henry Cotton, three times Open golf champion, at his magnificent home at Penina on the Algarve in southern Portugal.

With a colleague I arrived for lunch to find "HC" squatting on an old stool in his garage, vanishing into a canvas. Looking around I was startled to see the garage full, floor to roof, with canvases of all sizes.

I later asked if I might buy one of the many paintings — a pleasing representative view of the golf course Mr Cotton said, shortly, that we would discuss the matter over lunch. We lunched well, but we never did talk about my purchase of the old master's work.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY JONES  
As from 9 Algonson Road,  
Leamington, SE13  
February 19

## Letters to the Editor

The doctor spends less time in outpatients because he is part of a team including nurses and reception, medical records, laboratory pharmacy, portering and ambulance staff. The nursing profession particularly has suffered massive alterations. Office hours for the care of non-emergency patients become eroded further by committee and administrative affairs.

For cure we need an heroic regimen derived from intensive systemic examination by all constituent professions, occupations and administrators in all tiers. Fiddling with pay and sporadic bonuses of Government cash are only palliative. The remedy for our debility will be a prescription of revolution in our career organisations and in the way we work.

Yours sincerely,  
P. W. M. COPEMAN,  
32 Sloane Street, SW1,  
February 15.

From Miss Linda McConnell  
Sir, So Dr David Barnes (February 18) considers that "the provision of NHS secretaries for so many employees is unnecessary, however useful". He obviously subscribes to the popular belief that secretaries sit about all day looking decorative.

New entrants to the NHS find the level of responsibility they are expected to bear unacceptable and are soon off to less demanding but better-paid jobs where training and supervision is available. If new technology such as word-processing is available within the NHS the training consists of taking the manual home at night.

A secretary or clerk on the top of the higher clerical grade retiring this year after 40 years in the NHS is paid under £7,000. The HCO grade is the end of the so-called salary structure. For the rest of us the only increases between now and retirement (in my case 22 years) will be through pay awards and tax cuts.

A newly qualified nurse earns more.  
Yours faithfully,  
LINDA MCCONNELL,  
258 Ravensby Road,  
Carnoustie,  
Angus, Scotland,  
February 18.

From Professor J. S. P. Lumley  
Sir, Max Gammam's letter (February 11) speaks of the benefits of an expanded private medical sector for both patients and well-qualified NHS hospital doctors at present unable to find consultant posts.

I suggest that the beneficial effects could also be shared by retiring NHS consultants whose clinical and teaching skills, built up over a lifetime, are often now wasted.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LUMLEY,  
Bartholomew's Hospital,  
West Smithfield, EC1,  
February 15.

The threat of dismissal is a wonderfully effective way of concentrating the minds of teachers who do not demonstrate the required severity before the sacred tablets of stone known as GCSE. Should disciplinary action against me succeed, I doubt whether we will hear many more aberrations amongst the teaching profession regarding this new examination.

Yours sincerely,  
C. MCGOVERN (Head of History,  
Priory School, Lewes),  
Windsor,  
Punnett's Town,  
Henfield,  
East Sussex.

Liverpool. Liverpool was the only university in the country to be shortlisted for as many as four of these centres: in superconductors, semiconductors, surface science and lasers in manufacturing; all of key importance to future industrial wealth.

It may be worth noting that the other successful universities for centres — Cambridge, Glasgow, London and Oxford — are all to receive grant cuts in real terms.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN HUMPHREYS,  
The University of Liverpool,  
Department of Materials Science  
and Engineering,  
PO Box 147,  
Liverpool, Merseyside,  
February 15.

## Living together

From Lady Gaddum

Sir, Mrs L. M. J. Kemp (February 16) is right in saying that "we suggest a name for the partners who set up home together without benefit of clergy or registrar".

The Norwegians — always practical — have such a word. It is *sambo*.

This has no racist connotation; *sam* means together — *bo* means live. Unfortunately it is not easily translated into one word.

Yours faithfully,  
L. M. GADDUM,  
10 Dogget Lane,  
Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire,  
February 16.

From Mr M. Goldstein  
Sir, I have a friend who has solved the problem of what to call the man who is living with her daughter — she calls him her "nothing-un-law".  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN,  
38 Fortes Green Road,  
Muswell Hill, N10  
February 16

## Allied priorities on disarmament

From Viscount Watkinson, CH

Sir, It was always likely that agreement on intermediate nuclear weapons would give rise to a welter of conflicting strategies about future nuclear policy. At the March summit I hope that the West will not allow these to weaken its efforts to secure disarmament under proper safeguards. The Allies should stick to their own priorities.

First, the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty must be fully implemented.

Second, impetus for strategic weapons limitation must be maintained.

Third, and most vital, the West should make it quite plain that it will not consider further measures on nuclear disarmament until there is real progress "on the ground" as a result of the Vienna talks on the imbalance of conventional forces.

During what may well be lengthy negotiations it is only prudent for the West to keep up its nuclear guard. This will mean, as a matter of course, the continuance of the normal process of up-dating current weapons and weapon systems. There is nothing new in this policy, which is the minimum required to maintain credibility; it has always been NATO strategy.

Yet in my view it will be important for the summit to emphasise this fact to offset overmuch stress on "modernisation", which can too easily be misrepresented as some new policy of nuclear rearmament; one that will draw the predictable response from the Russians and increase the difficulties for the West Germans.

There is no need to search for a new policy at the March summit. All that is required is a firm continuing support for the classic NATO doctrine, which has preserved peace for over 40 years.

It is the continuance of every effort to negotiate further measures of disarmament whilst maintaining, with firm resolve, a credible nuclear deterrent.

Yours sincerely,  
WATKINSON,  
Tyma House,  
Shore Road,  
Bosham,  
Chichester,  
West Sussex,  
February 17.

## A bouquet for Bush

From Mr Miles Copeland (sen.)

Sir, General Alexander Haig is reported (February 13) to disapprove of George Bush because he lacks the ability to deal "eyeball-to-eyeball" with the Russians and has been "less than forthright" in discussing his alleged links to General Noriega of Panama. Your readers may be interested in knowing why members of the Washington-based "Association of Retired Intelligence Officers" are unmoved by these accusations and, together with most retired career diplomats, remain solidly behind Mr Bush.

For a variety of reasons not visible to the general public, freedoms we've been taking for granted are now in greater jeopardy than at any previous time in history — not from a major war, either nuclear or conventional, not from "international Communism", but from a complex of problems arising from the world's many small wars, unmanageable regional conflicts, and turbulent social conditions.

Our Government's adventures abroad have been guided by amateurs who have none of the experience or mental equipment even to know what our problems are, much less to understand their complications and subtleties.

We do not claim that George Bush is an authority on present-day international affairs; but we know from experience that, unlike the other candidates, he can be counted upon to take his advice from experienced practitioners.

With a president whose wisdom and discretion we can trust, we could assume that if he is involved in some affair like "Irangate" or meets some rascal like Noriega he will have good reasons, which we outside the inner sanctums of our government cannot be expected to understand. In any case, we'd certainly hope that he'd be "less than forthright" in discussing such actions in his campaign appearances.

Sincerely,  
MILES COPELAND,  
3 The Green,  
Astons Rowen, Oxford,  
February 15.

## Perfect timing

From Mr Ralph Rogers

Sir, Mr Edwards's boiled alarm clock (February 18) has an illustrious forerunner. Captain Joshua Slocum, who in 1895 was the first man to sail round the world single-handed, used as his only timepiece a tin clock bought for a dollar because of its smashed face. By the time he reached Australia it had also lost its minute hand, "but after I boiled her she told the hours".  
Yours faithfully,  
RALPH ROGERS,  
Court Lodge, Horton Kirby,  
Dartford, Kent  
February 18

ventional and nuclear forces. At the same time the Navy's surface fleet is being allowed to wither on the vine. A fleet of "about 50 destroyers and frigates" is now being interpreted as about 47, a number which can only meet our commitments at the expense of NATO.

The rate of ordering new ships is so low that the Fleet is becoming steadily more obsolescent and operational effectiveness is further reduced by the ridiculously low manpower ceiling which has been applied to the Navy.

All this at a time when all are agreed that nuclear reductions increase the importance of NATO maintaining strong conventional forces. I would like to suggest that the Prime Minister's words in Brussels need to be backed by action at home.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JUNGUIS,  
Lawlitch,  
Mylor Churchtown,  
Falmouth,  
Cornwall,  
February 18.

## Glassnost?

From Mr Gennady Gerasimov

Sir, In a report on my visit to the Reform Club (February 19) your Correspondent mentioned two points of the best butter the club could provide which I used to warm up to his questions. If my memory doesn't fail me I had three pints (if not four). As Oscar Wilde has wisely mentioned, the best way to resist the temptation is to yield to it.

There are other inaccuracies in your reporter's story but this one was too fundamental for me not to mention. Sincerely,  
G. GERASIMOV,  
Claridge's,  
Brook Street, W1,  
February 20.



## ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 23 1898

The Romanian went aground off Peniche, north of Lisbon, with 65 passengers and 67 crew. The final death toll was 113.

## [LOSS OF ROUMANIA]

The inquiry into the deplorable wreck of the Anchor Line steamer Rumania, which took place, it will be remembered, off the Portuguese coast on October 28 last, could hardly be expected to lead to any very satisfactory conclusions. All the officers of the ship perished with her; the seven Lascars sailors who escaped had returned to India and were not produced in Court, presumably because their evidence would have been of little value. The evidence as to the course taken by the Rumania, and the reasons which caused it to be taken, is, as the Court says, "very meagre". It seems, however, to bear out the twofold conclusion to which the judgment comes — namely, that the vessel probably overran her distance, and that she certainly was set off on her course by an unusually strong easterly current.

At the place where she struck the surf begins to break between four and five hundred yards from the shore, and as the wind was strong and the sea heavy on the night of the wreck, the danger was terrible from the moment she went aground. There was no panic among the passengers, and it appears to be just possible that some among them might have saved their lives had they known that the ship was hopelessly doomed. They seem, however, to have waited quietly in the saloon until they were drowned out by the heavy seas which broke over and into the vessel. They received no guidance from those in command. The last point of importance dealt with in the judgment which deserves comment is the composition of the Rumania's crew. It contained a large number of Lascars sailors, and, although the evidence shows and the Court finds that the proportion was not greater than is common on the fleets of many of the great passenger companies, it appears more than probable that this practice is attended with a certain degree of risk.

Lascars are both cheap and docile; and they are very good and efficient fair weather sailors. They are probably viewed, therefore, with a good deal of favour both by owners and officers. But it is generally believed that in emergencies, and particularly in emergencies of a kind which subject them to the influence of cold, wet and fear at once, they lose heart and become incapable of carrying out the orders which are given to them. The descriptions given of the conduct of the Lascars crew of the Rumania after she struck will not tend to dissipate this impression. They are said to have remained huddled up about the ship, and to have made very feeble efforts to lower the boats. The Court "is not, indeed, satisfied that proper discipline was not maintained," but it recommends that in vessels like the Rumania the proportion of European quartermasters should be increased in the future.















FASHION by Liz Smith/1

# Keeping spry and dry

Brave the blustery weather in a sharp slicker or a classic trenchcoat cropped to the knee. The new raincoats are being swept off the rails and out on to the streets



Above centre: Olive green lightweight showerproof cotton gabardine coat with hood, £180, Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1; selected branches  
Above: Short trapeze-line raincoat in black PVC, worn belted in sketch, £135, sizes 10-14, Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1

It may be that designers enjoy the challenge of creating something with real-life demands in mind. It might be the gusseted fabrics that presented themselves to be used this season. Whatever the reason, when it comes to a raincoat the choice in the shops today seems wonderfully wide. Whether it is the raglan-sleeved classic in a new, sharp colour or a rain slicker in glossy PVC, the new short swing mac is worth splashing out on.

There is a bigger scale to it generally which makes it work. Generously deep-set sleeves, or a raglan, allow it to be tossed easily on top of a jacket, an obvious requirement that many a designer neglected in the past. The fashionable trapeze line looks good worn flying loose, or its folds clutched in with a smart, bold belt.

Prices run from £59.99 for a faux storm-flapped proofed cotton coat at branches of Warehouse, up to £185 for an above-the-knee swing mac in scarlet proofed cotton from Burberry, or £215 for their classic trench, cropped to the knee. One of the sharpest-looking is Jaeger's neat navy and white striped showerproof swing coat in cotton and linen which costs £149.

At the top end, Hermès have a regular rubberized cotton riding mac in an orange so vivid that it would frighten the horses. The Hobbs chain provide the sort of handsome coat you could count on looking good forever, a heavy duty rubberized riding mac in ivory, black or navy, priced at £149. Marks & Spencer currently have two winners: one is a bright green cotton short swing coat with blue facings at £60. The other is a traditional trenchcoat in polyester and cotton which Marks & Spencer sensibly do in three lengths: short in sizes 10 to 16; standard and long in sizes 10 to 18. The price is £65, buckles, epaulettes and all.

## HARRODS SPRING MINK EVENT.



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Harrods  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

### PEOPLE Out of uniform



Daisy Donovan: making an early start in the fashion business

Daisy Donovan, a 14-year-old pupil at St Paul's Girls' School, took her first step towards a career in fashion last night. At the Leap Year Twist, the half-term ball at the Hammersmith Palais for pupils at London day schools, Daisy staged a fashion show.

Clothes were picked from Way In and Young Crowd, the new department on Harrods' fourth floor which caters for 10 to 17-year-olds. Daisy's father, the fashion photographer and commercial film director Terence Donovan, helped pick the models, (six girls, six boys, with two under-studies) from among the tallest of Daisy's fellow pupils, plus recruits from Godolphin & Latimer School and St Paul's. The music track for the show was made by Daisy's brother Terry, aged 16.

© Smirnoff is spending wide its support for young British fashion talents. Yesterday, designer Jeff Banks presented the Smirnoff student menswear design awards at Imber, the menswear trade fair at Olympia. The winning art college was Essex. The Albert Hall is the venue for the other Smirnoff-sponsored student event, the annual UK Fashion Awards, on Thursday. Designers Franco Moschino, Vivienne Westwood and John Richmond are among the judges. Jeff Banks presents the show, to be screened by Thames Television on March 7.

More fashion, page 18

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## FASHION by Liz Smith/2

# When the face fits...wear it

The Japanese cosmetics giant Shiseido is about to project itself on the British scene, and soon the English rose will be finding herself on screen



Lights! The camera lens focuses for a close-up. The fashionable face is taking a screen test. The image flashes on to a television screen and freezes. Lips gleaming with berry-red gloss might be the focal point. Eyes are emphasized in a smudge of buff that modulates to a rounded shape. The complexion is pale, warming to a gentle blush high on the cheekbone. But then the image on the screen begins to change. Berry red switches to magenta. A line is drawn as if to frame the eye in kohl. A beauty consultant is working with an electronic "make-up brush" or laser pen, applying and re-applying new shades, using a variety of make-up techniques, on the face on the screen.

On Friday the face being

Tiny top hat in glossy black straw, £120, Stephen Jones, from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Gilette 28, 28 Brook Street, W1. Crescent ear clips, £23, Butler & Wilson. Make-up and hair: Jale Bakka for Vincent Lonnro Cosmetics from Shiseido's new Gallant Couture. Photographs: STEVE HUGHES



electronically made up could be yours, when the Japanese cosmetics company Shiseido installs its Make-up Simulator in Selfridges on Oxford Street, and starts putting the English rose through her screen test. Myriad "special effects" come into play with the 160,000 cosmetic shades in the simulator's memory applied with its menu of brushes for line, wash and paint effects.

In reality, cosmetics are more than mere special effects. Expertly applied, they boost a woman's confidence. Yet few women switch lipstick shades or experiment with methods of application as often as they try on new clothes; for one thing, cosmetics are far too expensive to allow much dabbling. With the simulator, though, any such reticence goes. You do not even clean off the make-up you are wearing before the experiment starts.

The marriage between high tech-

nology and the beauty business is not exactly new. This decade has been marked by the fine-tuning of advances in the industry with new hi-tech packaging and high-performance products at cosmetics counters, where the sales girl is an analyst with a print-out of your beauty needs in her hand programmed by one of a variety of diagnostic computers. Elizabeth Arden even introduced an earlier make-up simulator a few years back - also in Selfridges.

Shiseido claims revolutionary advances with more subtle nuances in shading and retouching techniques, and a more natural image on the screen, to justify celebrating its own arrival, after appearances of the simulator in the United States, Paris and Milan, on Oxford Street.

Although the cosmetics industry has come a long way since Marlene Dietrich framed her eyelids for an early screen test with the tip of a used matchstick dipped in baby oil, it is Shiseido's ability to find the balance between ancient Japanese ritual and modern technological advances that has contributed to its phenomenal international success. It cherishes the seventh-century



Stephen Jones and Shiseido: Pipped hat in red silk jacquard, £200 to order. Silvered sculpted earrings, £22.50, Janet Fitch, 2 Percy Street, London W1.

Japanese massage technique using *nukabukuro*, little cotton bags filled with rice bran, as much as pioneering new products in its Yokohama research laboratories. Although Japanese women no longer rouge their ear lobes, and brides no longer stain their teeth black (to accent the whiteness of skin polished with *ochiroi*, a white compound) as they once did, Shiseido keeps alive the ancient ritual of *shikatsu* or finger-face massage and still produces a pretty presentation pack of lip gloss in a porcelain bowl to dab on with a fingertip.

Shiseido today is a £1.5 billion international empire, the top cosmetics manufacturer in Japan and the third largest in the world, after Avon and P&G.

Although it made tentative moves into the United States and Italy in the Sixties, the company's major thrust overseas dates back little more than a decade. Its move into this country was made only last September, exclusively at Harrods in Knightsbridge. This month sees a breakthrough on a broader front, with Shiseido counters opening in Kendalls in Manchester and Rackhams in Birmingham, as well as at Selfridges.



Just as Shiseido employs leading dermatologists in its research laboratories and uses considerable feedback from customers through its highly developed customer services, the British market was tested before leaping in. A skin specialist at Cardiff University monitored 200 British women over three months, and dispatched his results to Yokohama where Dr Tatsuya Ozawa and his team in Shiseido's Science Life Laboratories pored over the resulting graphs.

Their findings are said to reveal that whereas Japanese women have oilier cheeks and Americans oilier foreheads, it is the British noses that glow. The skin of the English rose has been proved to be the softest in the world, but alas this means it ages faster.

Shiseido's most powerful weapon in the fight against the wrinkle, B4-24 Day/Night Essence, is being launched in this country this week. Based on a laboratory recreation of bio-hyaluronic acid, which is a natural lubricant, it has proved to be Shiseido's best-selling line in the States. A dropper dispenser insures measured doses for day, and for a night's beauty sleep.

Shiseido bravely encourages customers to judge results of its products by using its Replica Skin Analyser system. At a counter consultation,

the sales assistant or analyst applies a patch of pink paste to a small area of the cheek. This is peeled off, and the resulting image of your skin surface, fed into the computer, is magnified 20 times. The print-out, looking unfortunately like the close-up of the textured and puckered fabric for which the Japanese fashion industry is famous, determines not just which products you should use initially, but a second consultation weeks later assesses their success.

In Japan, sex is not used to sell cosmetics. Instead of soft-focus smudges of couples or pouting Lolitas, simple narcissism is the ploy, with a glossy smile and a dewy-eyed gaze. In all its promotions since 1978, Shiseido has used the French *visagiste* Serge Lutens, who skillfully portrays Shiseido cosmetics as part of a costume fantasy. The result is an undisputed success.

Shiseido's compact foundation, which is applied wet or dry to look as if by glowing, has become an essential in every professional make-up artist's box of tricks. Its Eye System shadow quartets (£10), and Modulating Blusher (£11), are favorites, too, and Shiseido's fashion image is now solidly consolidated.

The ordered existence of the Japanese is legend. Their cities are scrupulously clean. In Tokyo, ashtrays for cigarette butts stand in the streets. Taxi-drivers wear white gloves and white linen antimacassars protect cab seats. The formal plans of the gardens, with groomed gravel, promenades around ponds fringed with maple and azalea and an overall tonality of grey-green and stone with bronze and carved wood, provide a study in relaxation. This symmetry and harmony pervades even the cosmetics industry. Packaging is meticulous.

In a young range for the Japanese market, Perky Jean lipstick comes in a palette that includes three colours and lip brush in a case as slim and neat as a credit card.

Shiseido's view of beauty goes further than skin deep. Shiseido Wellness comprises fitness clubs and "holonic" (health) studios. Shiseido Cuisine is dispensed from an elegant penthouse restaurant overlooking the Imperial Palace Gardens in Tokyo as well as in 17 parlours (Shiseido opened its first ice-cream parlour in the Ginza in 1901) and restaurants dotted around Japan.

Dr Ozawa's labs are currently working on Fitores, Shiseido's new pharmaceutical range, which will comprise vitamins, medicated skin-care, exercise and fitness aids and will bring Shiseido back full circle to its origins as the first Western-style pharmacy opened in Tokyo in 1872.

Call 01-629 1234 ext 3340 for an appointment on the Make-up Simulator.

## Flying off into the hearts of the Japanese

If it is British and it has a distinctive label, the chances are that it will be a big seller among the shoppers of Tokyo

The Japanese are on a shopping spree. Planes take off from Narita airport in Tokyo and transport the big spenders to Hong Kong; at the Peninsula Hotel, queues line up outside the Luis Vuitton boutique where a sign in the window, in Japanese, asks them to come in just six at a time.

The Japanese enthusiasm for French and Italian status labels is unstoppable, but what they really love is anything British. It is the Japanese who are Burberry's main export customers. They appreciate that classic, uniform style. The streets off the Ginza, Tokyo's main shopping avenue, are studded with familiar names, *Dunhill*, *Jaeger*, *Aquascutum*, *Laura Ashley*, who made their debut in Tokyo as recently as 1982, were an instant hit and will have 14 more shops in Japan by the end of the year.

More than half the population of Japan is aged under 30, and it is the fashion-obsessed youth of Japan who currently

help to keep a roof over many a young British designer's head, and more well-established London designers achieve superstardom.

Jasper Conran will fly to Tokyo in April to stage a fashion show. "I am being airlifted out of my brother Sebastian's wedding reception to get there for April 18," he says. *Rifox Ozbek*, whose enthusiasm for all things Japanese extends to his using the Ikeda, a Japanese restaurant in Brook Street near his design studios, like a canteen, was whisked out by the Shiseido cosmetic company to take part in a recent "Best of Five" British fashion show, and his clothes are prominently displayed in the Shiseido Ginza boutique.

Katharine Hammett, whose basic line of shirts and minis, tailored cotton jackets and T-shirts has been made under licence in Japan since 1981, is the top-selling British designer, with concessions in 40 shops. "Their work ethos is



Treasured designers: Stephen Jones, Caroline Charles and Mary Quant (right)

quite feral," Hammett says. "Everyone tries so hard and will stay up night and day to get it right. Each worker takes personal responsibility for the product. There is no back-passing like here."

Earlier this month Caroline Charles staged a preview of her autumn collection in her Beauchamp Place shop for a group of 36 Japanese buyers from the Fujii Virre group. The warmth of her understanding of the Japanese way of life is best expressed in her collection of wedding dresses, made through a completely separate, and lucrative, licensing deal by Kamekita in Kyoto.

After the initial shock of seeing her meticulous sketches interpreted with an extra dollop of diamonds and pearls smothering each sample dress, and wide whooshes of tulle supporting the crinoline skirts, Charles now tailors her normally understated style to the more elaborate wedding rituals of the Japanese, and enjoys it.

"The Japanese respect designers," she says. "You are a treasured possession, paid accordingly, and given one-stop treats like being taken to sumo wrestling or the kabuki theatre."

These teenagers sported the draped-printed cotton jersey Stephen Jones handmanas supplied for the Shiseido promotion. His hats are also manufactured in Japan and sold through Isoton stores.

Burberry, with a 20-year headstart in the Far East market, now know to scale down their checked scarves and the size of their bags for the Japanese customer. Their classic trench is recent, not just in smaller sizes but to new proportions (the Japanese have longer waists, shorter legs). Trade with the Japanese, opened up by Burberry's pioneering director Roy Hole in 1967, today amounts to more than £150 million (retail) from the 360 Burberry shops within-shops.

It is Mary Quant however who is, as she says, an "honorary Japanese". Of her £100 million annual turnover, 75 per cent comes from Japan where a joint venture was established four years ago to sell cosmetics, fashions and household linens. Artwork for exclusive printed fabrics, drawings of the collections, are taken out three or four times a year and developed in the Quant headquarters, in her "small skyscraper", in Tokyo.

### THERE ARE JAEGER SHOPS IN:

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Peter Davalle

## BBC1

- 6.00** *Cartoon AM*.  
**6.35** *GI Lamb in Pardon My Wrench* (b/w) 6.55 *Weather*.  
**7.00** *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. Plus, the latest news from the Winter Olympics in Calgary.  
**8.30** *Lennie and Shirley*. American comedy series starring Cindy Williams and Penny Marshall.  
**8.55** Regional news and weather. News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes.  
**10.00** News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r). 10.20 *Children's BBC*. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *School* (r), and *The Wombles* (r).  
**10.55** *Five to Eleven*. A reading by David King 11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*.  
**12.00** News and weather followed by *Olympic Report*. Highlights of the original set pattern in the ice-dance championships; the women's 500m speed skating; and ice hockey 12.55 Regional news and weather.  
**1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerge. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Diana Ramsay decides to divorce her husband after 50 years of marriage.  
**1.45** *Koala Land*. Mack is on a hit list when he comes too close to the Wildlife Group. 2.00 *Vallée*. American domestic comedy series. 2.30 *The Clothes Horse*. Salma Scott and Jeff Banks report on the fashion show held at the Sydney Opera House where the UK was represented by Bruce Oldfield and Jean Muir.

## BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Technology* - Domes is What You Make It. Ends at 7.30.  
**9.00** *Cartoon*.  
**9.20** *Daytime on Two*: coping with change 9.30 *Tudor ships* and seamen 10.15 Part five of a story about pigeon racing 10.30 *Young technicians* tackle a problem faced by Brunel 11.00 A trip down a coal mine 11.15 *Computers* 11.35 The first programme of a series on socialism and how it can be fought 11.55 A teachers' programme on home economics 12.30 An Italian language profile of the Mayor of Montemonte 12.50 Lesson five of the 15-part Spanish for beginners course 1.20 For the young, a dramatized portrait of Dr John Harries - the Wizard of Court-Casino 2.00 News and weather followed by a series for four- and five-year-olds.  
**2.15** *Sign Extra* From *Cradle to Grave* (r).  
**2.45** *Seabrook Down Under*. Peter Seabrook pays a springtime visit to Christchurch, New Zealand's South Island.  
**3.00** News and weather followed by *Olympic Match of the Day* introduced by Steve Rickard. Highlights of the first part of the ice hockey championship.  
**3.30** News, regional news and weather.  
**4.00** *Catchword*. Word game presented by Paul Cole.  
**4.30** *The Little Train to Lynton*. A tribute to the Barnstaple to Lynton railway, opened in 1898 only to be closed less than four decades later by the popularity of the motor car. Former passengers recall the 19th mile line with the help of photographs and archival film. Written and narrated by Gwyn Richards (first shown on BBC Bristol).  
**5.00** *Gardeners' World* introduced from Barmdale by Geoff Hamilton and Anne Swinbank (r).  
**5.30** *Olympic Gamesland* featuring the second section of the ice-dance championship and the women's 500m speed skating event. Plus the latest news from the basketball 10m event.



Orson Welles on BBC2, 9.00pm

- 7.10** *Telejournal*. Domestic and international news from ZDF, West Germany's second channel; and a report on "Roy Flash", a chain-letter system that is attracting the attention of West German gamblers.  
**7.40** *A Nightchild and His Red Gold*. A documentary about the late Baron Philippe de Rothschild who died last month at the age of 85 (r).  
**8.30** *Food and Drink*. Includes the final of the Super Cook 1988 competition; advice on buying the most suitable potatoes; and the editor of the *Good Food Guide*, David Smith, investigates the disappearance of dairy ice cream.  
**8.50** *Film: The Third Man* (1949, b/w) starring Joseph Cotten, Orson Welles, Trevor Howard and Valia. A classic thriller set in post-Second World War Vienna about an American writer searching for his old friend Harry Lime, now a black marketeer, refusing to believe the rumour that he is dead. Screenplay by Graham Greene and directed by Carol Reed. (Coast).  
**10.40** *Newsnight* 11.25 *Weather*.  
**11.30** *Olympic Report*. Desmond Lynam with the latest news from Calgary.  
**12.00** *Open University: World Politics*. Ends at 12.30am.

## ITV/LONDON

- 8.50** *TV-am* includes *Good Morning Britain* at 7.00 and *Good Afternoon Britain* at 1.00 featuring news, Motley Mathews, sports reports and weather.  
**9.00** *Wednesday* presented by Timmy Mallett.  
**9.25** *Thames news*.  
**9.30** *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity mime game. 10.00 *Santa Barbara* 10.20 *The Time*.  
**10.30** *The Time*.  
**11.00** *News*.  
**11.30** *About Britain: Wal's Way*. Tom Wal with the first of a series in which he takes viewers on a conducted tour of sites and buildings in the Forest and hills of the Spay Valley 12.00 *Q&A Street*. Music and chat show presented by Vince Hill.  
**12.30** *News*.  
**1.00** *What's My Line?* Odd occupations quiz chaired by Penelope Keith 1.30 *Quintessence*. The police pathologist to combine political terrorism holding hostages that they are all exposed to a deadly virus (r).  
**2.30** *The Treatment*. Magazine series on health matters presented by Josephine Suchan 3.00 *The Write Stuff*. Henry Kelly meets romance author Noel Barber and Anna Edwards talks about her autobiographies 3.30 *Thames news* headlines 3.50 *The Young Doctors*.  
**4.00** *Rainbow*. A repeat of the programme shown at 11.10 4.15 *Tonight* (r). 4.25 *Turn on to T* featuring Elizabeth Estensen 4.30 *Do It*.  
**5.15** *Connections*. Quiz game presented by Sue Robble.  
**5.45** *News* 6.00 *Thames news* headlines 6.30 *Thames news* headlines 6.50 *Thames news* headlines 7.00 *Thames news* headlines 7.30 *Thames news* headlines 7.50 *Thames news* headlines 8.00 *Thames news* headlines 8.30 *Thames news* headlines 8.50 *Thames news* headlines 9.00 *Thames news* headlines 9.30 *Thames news* headlines 9.50 *Thames news* headlines 10.00 *Thames news* headlines 10.30 *Thames news* headlines 10.50 *Thames news* headlines 11.00 *Thames news* headlines 11.30 *Thames news* headlines 11.50 *Thames news* headlines 12.00 *Thames news* headlines 12.30 *Thames news* headlines 12.50 *Thames news* headlines 1.00 *Thames news* headlines 1.30 *Thames news* headlines 1.50 *Thames news* headlines 2.00 *Thames news* headlines 2.30 *Thames news* headlines 2.50 *Thames news* headlines 3.00 *Thames news* headlines 3.30 *Thames news* headlines 3.50 *Thames news* headlines 4.00 *Thames news* headlines 4.30 *Thames news* headlines 4.50 *Thames news* headlines 5.00 *Thames news* 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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1396.3 (+13.7)

FT-SE 100  
1747.2 (+17.4)

Bargains  
24151 (26331)

USM (Datastream)  
145.81 (+0.53)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7690 (+0.0120)

W German mark  
2.9892 (+0.0029)

Trade-weighted  
74.5 (+0.2)

Purchases  
promised  
by Scholes

George H. Scholes, the Wykes fusebox and circuit breaker group, which fought off a £70 million bid from Delta last year, has lifted profits for the half-year to end-December from £2.79 million to £3.30 million. Shareholders collect a 5.5p interim dividend.

Accompanying the figures is news of the group's first acquisition since the Delta bid — £9 million paid for the wiring and lighting business H&L Appleby.

Scholes' chairman and chief executive, Mr Reg Harrington, promises more acquisitions. "We need to diversify," he says.

Temps, page 24

Pub shareout

Grand Metropolitan yesterday confirmed the sale of 701 of its pubs for £80 million. Mr George Walker's leisure group, Brent Walker, is buying 386 in London, the Home Counties and East Anglia; Heron International, Mr Gerald Reisman's privately-owned group, is taking over 210 in the North and the Midlands; and 105 in the south west are going to Gibbs Mew.

FII higher

FII Group, Britain's second largest footwear manufacturer, reports pre-tax profits up from £3 million to £3.2 million in the six months to end-November, due to the inclusion of Loma, acquired in August, for a full half-year. An interim dividend of 3.25p (3p) was declared. Temps, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	2021.05 (+5.48)
Dow Jones	2021.05 (+5.48)
Nikkei Average	2484.71 (+73.30)
Hong Kong	2343.17 (+19.73)
Amsterdam	223.7 (+0.7)
Sydney	1251.0 (+8.0)
Frankfurt	1384.8 (+16.3)
Brussels	4523.9 (+18.2)
Paris	448.6 (+4.6)
London	1396.3 (+13.7)
FT-SE 100	1747.2 (+17.4)
FT-SE 250	2633.1 (+26.3)
FT-100 Index	95.58 (+0.25)
FT-100 Vol	89.46 (-0.04)
FT-100 Div	2.9892 (+0.0029)
FT-100 Yield	2.9892 (+0.0029)
FT-100 Div	2.9892 (+0.0029)
FT-100 Yield	2.9892 (+0.0029)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISE:	
Schroders	925p (+25p)
Amec	350p (+12p)
Blue Chip	420p (+10p)
Brenco	202p (+12p)
Peramim	154p (+15p)
Eys (Wimbledon)	715p (+120p)
M&G	321p (+20p)
Woolson	454p (+18p)
Wells	694p (+12p)
Cable & Wireless	357p (+15p)
General Accident	395p (+14p)
Hilldown	287p (+10p)
Tate & Lyle	818p (+15p)
Bank of Scotland	485p (+15p)
MEPC	485p (+15p)
Brent Walker	382p (+13p)
FALL:	
Church	430p (-20p)
100 Shares	364p (-10p)
100 Shares	515p (-10p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES	
London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9.5%
3-month eligible bills	8.5-9.2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	6.5%
Federal Funds	6.1%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.65-5.65%
30-year bonds	10.4-10.4%

CURRENCIES	
London	New York
£ \$1.7690	£ \$1.7645
DM £2.9892	DM £2.9850
Sfr £2.0515	Sfr £2.0480
FF £110.1073	FF £110.7345
Yen £227.98	Yen £228.23
Index £24.5	Index £24.5
ECU £0.691145	SDR £0.772957

GOLD	
London	New York
AM \$445.10 pm \$445.50	AM \$445.10 pm \$445.50
Close \$445.00-446.50	Close \$445.00-446.50
253.50	253.50
Comex \$446.10-446.60	

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Apr)	pm \$15.80 bbl
Denotes latest trading price	
Bas Refining	24
Exxon	25
Shell	26
BP	27
Esso	28
Agip	29
Eni	30
Indesit	31
Elf	32
Total	33
Elf	34
Elf	35
Elf	36
Elf	37
Elf	38
Elf	39
Elf	40
Elf	41
Elf	42
Elf	43
Elf	44
Elf	45
Elf	46
Elf	47
Elf	48
Elf	49
Elf	50

Mixed verdict as M&S and Tesco do an out-of-town shop

By Cliff Feltton

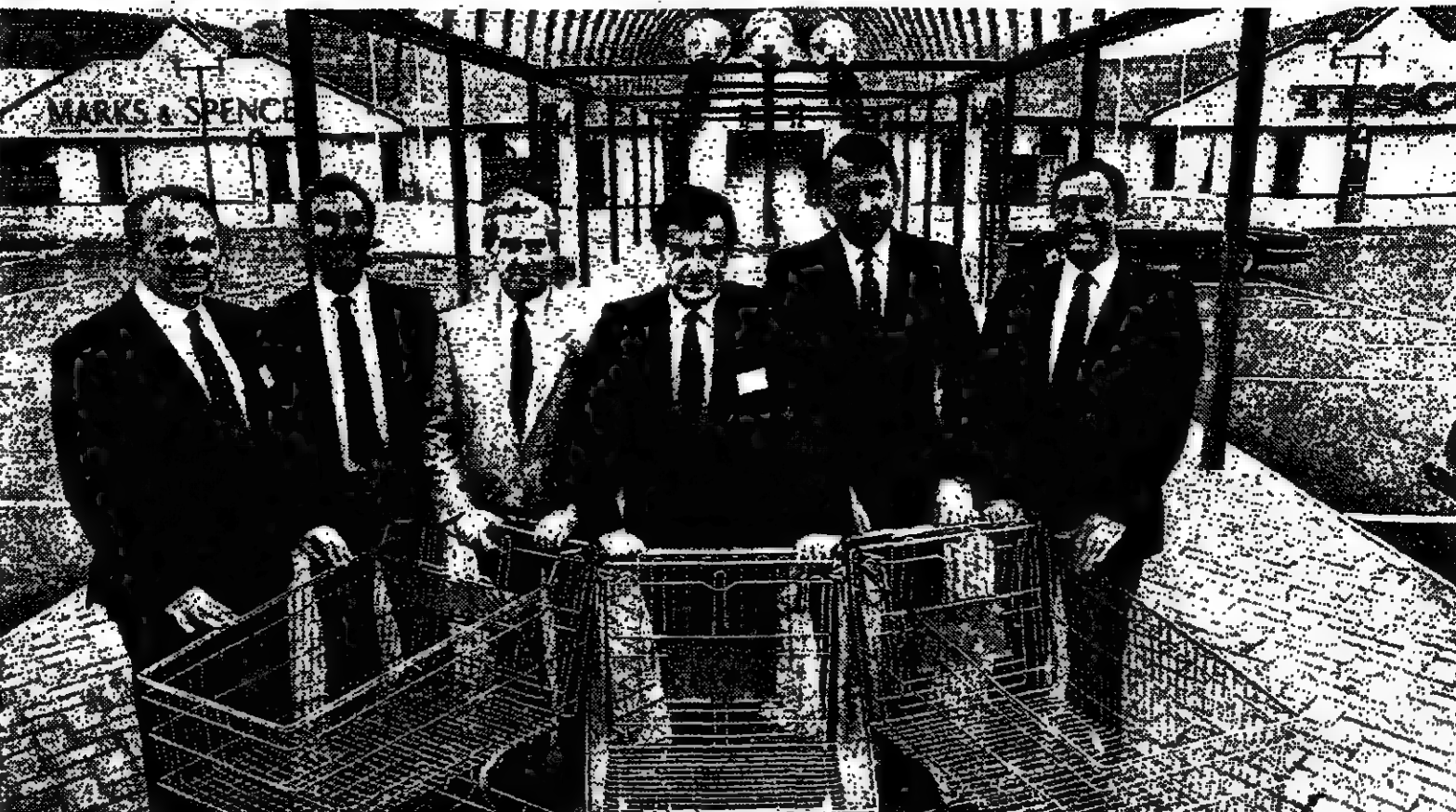
Tesco and Marks and Spencer open their £32 million superstore at Broomfield in Hertfordshire today.

The Brookfield Centre, a joint venture between the two High Street giants, is the first out-of-town development for Marks and Spencer, although Tesco has a third of its 380 stores outside urban centres.

Analysts who were given a preview yesterday came away more impressed with the Tesco arrangements. Mr John Dickinson of Chase Manhattan, the securities house, said: "The Tesco layout was fantastic."

Mr Peter Jones of Shearson Lehman, the US securities house, said: "There were no surprises in the Tesco store but that does not mean it was no less impressive. But the Marks and Spencer store was also good. It was one of the best displays of furniture I have seen."

Miss Aine Kelly from Kleinwort Grieson, the broker, said: "I was most impressed with Tesco. I am not sure about the Marks and Spencer furniture range. It was pricey and I think people might prefer to buy from a specialist store."



Shared shopping: Tesco chairman Ian MacLaurin, (fourth from left) with Tesco and M&S directors at the store yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Top men go at  
NatWest arm  
County expected to  
show loss of £50m

By Richard Thompson, Banking Correspondent

County NatWest, the troubled securities and investment banking arm of National Westminster Bank, was shaken yesterday by the resignation of its chairman, Mr Charles Villiers, and Mr Jonathan Cohen, the chief executive.

Mr Terry Green, NatWest's deputy group chief executive, is temporarily taking over as head of County.

Earlier County dismissed two more dealers and withdrew from market-making in North American stocks in the first stage of a review of international operations which is expected to result in about 20 redundancies.

Announcement of the top-level departures comes just before NatWest group results for 1987, due to be published today, in which County is expected to show a loss of more than £50 million.

Mr Villiers and Mr Cohen resigned after discussions with their colleagues. "NatWest said, Mr Cohen was the third chief executive at County in the last three years. Both he and Mr Villiers had been at County in various roles since the early 1970s."

Volcker call for higher taxes

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mr Paul Volcker, former chairman of the US Federal Reserve, gave a warning yesterday that there would be further spasms on Wall Street and that markets would force interest rates higher unless the United States sharply reduced its budget deficit.

He said US borrowing at near \$150 billion a year could seed the seeds of its own destruction because overseas investors would lose confidence.

Mr Volcker urged higher taxes on energy, alcohol and tobacco because only tax increases would make a big impact on borrowing.

In the wake of the budget proposals, the dollar suddenly fell against other leading currencies yesterday after a quiet start to trading.

It dropped through the psychologically important level of DM1.70 to DM1.6960, down one pfennig. The dollar fell 1.5 cents against sterling to \$1.7635 and by Y0.6 to Y129.35.

Foreign exchange markets are also waiting for revised figures for US output in the last three months of 1987, due on Thursday. Early estimates indicated a slowing of growth.

Mr Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, is expected to confirm growth targets of between 5 and 8 per cent for money supply in a report to Congress today.

Comment, page 25

French threaten  
Pearson  
news bid

By Our City Staff

The French finance ministry is reserving the right to block the purchase of Les Echos, the financial daily, by Pearson, the publisher of the Financial Times, citing doubts over Pearson's status as a European Economic Community firm.

The management at Les Echos immediately accused Mr Edward Balladur, the finance minister, of delaying an official announcement vetoing the takeover until after the French presidential election in April.

The News Corporation, which is based in Australia, and of which Mr Rupert Murdoch, now a naturalized American, is chief executive, owns a 20.5 per cent stake in Pearson.

Pearson last night put out a statement that it had been informed by the French authorities that they did not accept that Pearson is a European-owned company. Lord Blakenham, the chairman of Pearson, said last night:

"I regret Mr Balladur's decision to delay approval of Pearson's merger with Les Echos. The delay can only damage the interests of Les Echos. His ruling appears to conflict with the provisions of articles 52 to 58 of the Treaty of Rome."

"Pearson is an EEC company. Over 70 per cent of Pearson shares are owned by EEC nationals. I welcome the determination of Mme Jacqueline Beytout, (owner-publisher of Les Echos) and the Les Echos management to pursue the merger of our two companies, and I welcome the confidence in Pearson management expressed today by the journalists of Les Echos."

The ministry, in a statement which avoided naming Mr Murdoch, said the law gave it the right to block bids by foreign companies if it was not satisfied that they were European Community enterprises.

Mr Murdoch raised his shareholding last month after Pearson, in the first full takeover of a French newspaper by a foreigner, agreed to buy Les Echos for an estimated \$150 million (£85.71 million) in Pearson shares and cash.

Vickers jumps to  
surprise £62.6m

By Colin Campbell

Vickers, the diversified engineering group, has topped City expectations with 1987 pre-tax profits of £62.6 million compared with £54 million earned a year earlier on a 14 per cent increase in turnover to £788.3 million.

During the 12 months to end December the group, whose products include Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, sold 2,784 luxury models, compared with 2,603 in 1986.

Vickers' shares rose 10½p to 167p helped by a higher final dividend up from 3.6p to 4p a share, making a year's payment of 6.7p (6p).

Sir David Plastow, chairman, said: "I remain confident that, despite some international economic uncertainty, our strong portfolio of businesses will provide further opportunities for earnings growth in 1988."

Vickers has brought the gearing level down from 33 per cent to 28 per cent. Sir David said 54 people had expressed interest in Comforto Vickers, the office furniture operations, which last year saw its profits contribution ease from £5.4 million to £5.1 million.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars contributed £22 million to group operating profit compared with £17.5 million, from a turnover of £186.2 million (£175.1 million). The group's lithographic plates subsidiary, Howson-Algraphy made £18.7 million operating profit (£17.5 million), while defence and aerospace activities brought in £12.7 million (£9.2 million).

Temps, page 24

Drexel 'may face lawsuit'

By Our Banking Correspondent

Drexel Burnham Lambert, the New York investment house and specialist in junk bonds, yesterday revealed that it could be the subject of a legal action by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the US securities markets watchdog.

Despite persistent speculation, neither the SEC nor Drexel has publicly admitted so far that a lawsuit was under consideration.

The ministry, in a statement which avoided naming Mr Murdoch, said the law gave it the right to block bids by foreign companies if it was not satisfied that they were European Community enterprises.

Mr Murdoch raised his shareholding last month after Pearson, in the first full takeover of a French newspaper by a foreigner, agreed to buy Les Echos for an estimated \$150 million (£85.71 million) in Pearson shares and cash.

Comment, page 25

Stake in company steers former chauffeur to tax haven

NFC driver's shortcut to riches

By Joe Joseph

While 4,000 employee shareholders of Britain's biggest transport and distribution group swirled through Blackpool's Winter Gardens on Sunday after holding their annual meeting, Mick Rouse, aged 43 and recently retired as one of the company's chauffeurs, was rushing to catch a flight home to the Isle of Man.

It may lack the Bougainvillea of Bermuda or the cachet of the Cayman Islands, but Douglas, the Manx capital, offers a climate that warms anyone with more cash than will fit comfortably under the mattress.

As one of the founder shareholders who bought a stake in the now flourishing National Freight Consortium in 1982, when Downing Street gladly rid itself of what was then a loss-making millstone, Mr Rouse decided last September that his mattress was getting too lumpy. Every £1 he invested when the workers first took control of the Pickfords and Lynx Express group is now worth £56.

So he telephoned his accountant, sold his house at Luton, Bedfordshire, and took himself, his family and his portfolio of rapidly appreciating NFC shares off to the famous tax haven.

Mr Rouse, like Getty and Rockefeller before him, says reports of his wealth are overblown. He thinks his shareholding in NFC — whose employee-owners decided on Sunday to tap the success they have made of the group by floating it on the Stock Exchange — is worth only £140,000 or £150,000.

Estimates among his former bosses put the windfall at least one-third higher. Either way, the total will get fatter still with NFC's stock market quotation.

"I'm on the dot," complains the man who spent eight years behind the wheel of a Jaguar steering Mr Jack Mather, NFC's chief executive, across the country. His main driving now is picking his children up from school.

"I'm not a tax exile. I left the job through ill health. I've still got problems with my spine. I was working 80 and 90 hours a week, starting at 5.30 in the morning. I couldn't carry on. I'm buying a fish and chip shop here in Douglas. I've got an agreed overdraft with the bank to start my own business. I've got to make a living."

But while he may be coming fresh to the world of battered cod, Mr Rouse is no newcomer to high finance. He has been a regular and sophisticated dabbler in NFC's internal market, where employee shareholders can buy and sell their stock, and pool-pools some of his less adventurous ex-colleagues: one of them had warned in Blackpool that "the get-rich-quick people are waiting in the City with their wallets open," eager to take over NFC once it was floated.

"They're a bit naive and narrow-minded, some of them. They stand up and talk a lot of gobbledegook."

Then again, few of his former colleagues have financial problems worthy of talking to pricey professional advisers.

"I haven't got much left in my portfolio apart from my NFC shares. I was told by my accountant that I had to sell up if I was leaving the mainland. I actually sold all my unit trusts the week before Black Monday. It was more luck than anything else. I suppose I'll start building up my portfolio again soon."

Brussels  
queries  
B-Cal  
takeover

By Colin Narborough

British Airways' dominant position came under fire on three fronts yesterday, with protests from the Scandinavian governments, the US Senate and news that the EEC Commission was seriously scrutinizing BA's takeover of British Caledonian.

Mr Peter Sutherland, the EEC Commissioner for Competition, said in London a report was under way on possible anti-competitive effects of the tie-up.

Both BA and the Government played down Brussels' agreement last year to investigate the case, questioning its ability to intervene. It now appears Britain is taking the Commission seriously.

The Government last year gave BA the go-ahead to take over B-Cal after a deal with the Monopolies Commission. A bid battle with Scandinavian Airlines System ended in a BA victory.

The governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark — which jointly own half of SAS — want urgent talks with the Department of Transport to secure "equal and fair" treatment for their airlines on routes to and from Britain. Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, has agreed.

Angered by SAS's failure to obtain key landing slots in London, the Scandinavians demand full reciprocity with Britain on access to each other's air transport markets.

In a letter to Mr Channon, Mr Sven Hultstrom, his Swedish counterpart, said the Swedish could not allow the "abuse of a dominant position in the market by a large and powerful undertaking."

Mr Sutherland said Brussels could not allow the "abuse of a dominant position in the market by a large and powerful undertaking."

In Washington, Senator Lloyd Bentsen urged the US Transport Department to examine BA's alleged unfair practices against US rivals.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON  
1987 RESULTS

	1987	1986
	£m	£m
Sales	650.2	651.7
Trading profit	45.6	45.6
Capital expenditure	33.9	32.6
Net capital employed	258.7	269.4
Return on capital	17.0%	15.8%
Return on sales	7.2%	7.0%

The above figures and the notes below relate to the Group managed by Albright & Wilson, including companies owned directly by Tenneco.

A record profit was achieved in 1987 despite incurring reorganisation costs in the UK of £3.5 million.

Profits in Europe (including the UK) improved by one-third to £29 million, before reorganisation costs, but were £3 million lower in the Americas where margins were squeezed.

Sales volumes were up 7% in Europe, but the weak dollar reduced the sterling value of North American sales and contributed to lower selling prices in Europe.

Exports from the UK were £116 million, representing 40% of sales of UK origin.

An important new plant for purifying phosphoric acid was commissioned in the UK and a joint venture in the USA with Texasgulf Inc. for purified phosphoric acid was announced.

An ethoxylation plant in Singapore, jointly owned with an ASEAN partner, was commissioned.

During 1987, a restructuring of operations was completed, to give sharper strategic direction and a shorter chain of command. There are now four main groupings:

Europe: comprising three Business Groups - Detergents, Phosphates and Resins & Organics - with the European headquarters at Warley, Birmingham.

Americas: combining all operations in the USA and Canada, with headquarters in Toronto and a corporate office in Richmond, Virginia.

Asia: covering manufacturing companies in Singapore and Malaysia, offices in Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan and jointly-owned companies in the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, with headquarters in Singapore.

Australasia: comprising manufacturing operations in Australia and a selling company in New Zealand, directed from Melbourne.

The Group Head Office remains in London.

Copies of the Review of the Year may be obtained from Corporate Publications Department at the address below after 20th March 1988.

Albright & Wilson Ltd., 1 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1X 7UD

Albright & Wilson is a Tenneco company



BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Unipart chairman to head engineers

Mr Richard Perry, chairman of Unipart, the car spares organization, and former chairman of Rolls Royce Motors, has been elected president of the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) for two years. He takes over from Mr Rosalie Hooker, chairman of Dabblers and a senior industrial adviser to Hambros Bank.

Aged 58, Mr Perry, a council member of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, was president of the federation's West Midlands Association in the mid-1970s. He entered the industry in 1948 as an apprentice.

Low offer in Canada £3.8m deal at Speyhawk

Low & Bonar, the Dundee, Tayside, plastics and packaging group, is buying out the minority 32.6 per cent stake in its Canadian offshoot, Bonar Inc, in a £3.8m deal. The cash offer of £3.8m for a 32.6 per cent stake in Bonar Inc is being recommended by the independent directors of the Canadian company.

Austrac claims 50.8%

ACI International has said a £5.16 billion (£655 million) bid for the glass and packaging group remained inadequate in spite of having won more than 50 per cent acceptance. Austrac Investments said it held 50.8 per cent of ACI's 398 million shares under its £5.16 billion share cash offer, revised from £4.54, plus an 8.5 cent dividend.

Mr Brian Scott, the ACI chairman, said the offer still failed to reflect ACI's strong balance sheet, market position and growth prospects. He criticized acceptance by ACI's largest shareholders, Westfield Capital Corporation and the Australian Mutual Provident Society, and urged remaining ACI shareholders, which include the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation and Hestley Group, not to accept.

Wates sells office stake Caird buys freehold

Wates City of London Properties has sold its stake in a 42,600 sq ft office scheme at 51 Moorgate, London EC2, to Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale for £40 million in cash and loan notes. The company said the sale will provide additional resources for development. It already has plans for a 750,000 sq ft office scheme in the City.

NZ cuts foreign debt

New Zealand will repay NZ\$1.4 billion (£531 million) of foreign debt with the help of NZ\$800 million raised by the sale of its stake in Petroleum Corporation of New Zealand (Petrocorp) to British Gas, Mr Roger Douglas, the finance minister, said. The government said in its 1987 budget that it planned to repay NZ\$600 million of foreign debt.

Mr Douglas said in a statement that it had now been decided to add in the Petrocorp proceeds. Total foreign debt was NZ\$31.26 billion in the quarter ended September 30. Mr Douglas said that it had been assumed that the government would receive NZ\$1.68 billion in the year to March 31 from the sale of state-owned enterprises and retirement of the debt of the Housing Corporation and the Rural Bank.

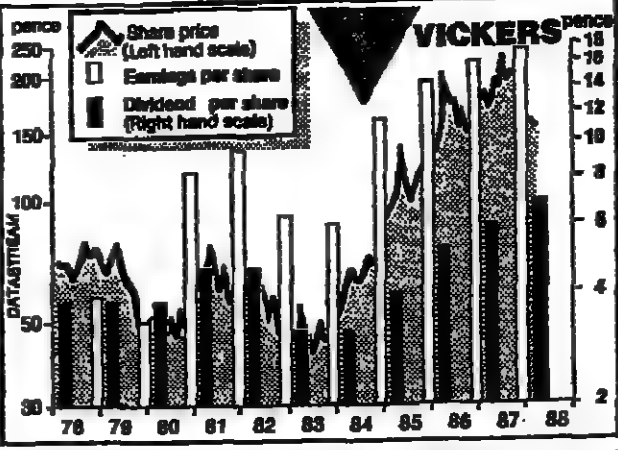
Streamlined Vickers shines in City

Vickers, thanks to those pressure Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, is winning the hearts and minds of the City in a fashion that would have seemed impossible in the early 1980s.

The once sprawling engineering concern is now slimmed down to a mere six main divisions (and due to contract to five, once the business furniture division goes). Management has impressed the City with a sense of direction, which was not always so evident. Profits for the year ended December topped expectations and the shares are on a rating which puts them into the buy class.

If 1986 was Vickers' year for an acquisition spree, then 1987 was the year that money was put behind its winning assets. The outcome was an advance at the pretax profits line from £54 million to £62.6 million, improved margins, and a confident enough start to the current year to suggest that at least £71 million is in sight for 1988.

The direct sales of Rolls-Royce to buyers may well have slipped by a handful, but Bentley sales - where the margin impact is impressive - continued to forge ahead to see operating profits of the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars division rise from £17.5 million to £22 million. So far - and 1987 figures take in the months immediately after the October Wall Street and London stock market collapses - there is little evidence



VICKERS

While the impression remains that last summer's £70 million bid from Delta caught the electrical switchgear manufacturer George H Scholes on the hop, it certainly appears to have its act together now.

Yesterday it reported an 11 per cent rise in sales, an 18 per cent increase in pretax profits, a 20 per cent advance in earnings and a dividend up 22 per cent. It has £7.4 million cash, no debt and ambitious acquisition plans.

Fortunately for the new chief executive, Mr Reg Harrington, pickforked by Delta to succeed the chairman, the Scholes family interests and loyal local holders left the company well enough insulated. Delta's defeat, in truth, owed as much to doubts about

circuits-breakers through 1,300 wholesalers. Indeed, all self-respecting electricians apparently order their supplies by the Wylex catalogue number.

It is a business that earns the group £1 pretax on every £5 of sales. And yet, Scholes' strength is its weakness. Its scope for increased market share is almost non-existent while its product range is limited. So it must diversify.

It will. The programme has begun with the purchase of the wiring and lighting group, H&L Appleby, for £9 million.

It may spend up to £50 million, and has its eye on energy management systems and security systems, besides wiring and lighting. It is prepared to use cash but would rather use its shares. Now priced at 455p, suggesting a 1/2 multiple of about 12.3, they are undervalued well below Delta's pre-crash 575p cash bid, but the gap should narrow.

FII

Fiona Footwear, one of FII's principal subsidiaries, is an industry leader in the manufacture of women's shoes and not, as its name might suggest, something from a children's story book.

Elaborate shoes, both for men and women, are in fashion. This has pushed up unit costs but retailers have not been prepared to pay more for the product. As a result,

margins at FII have been squeezed, falling from 14.1 to 10.4 per cent since last year's first half.

British shoe manufacturers, among which FII ranks second with a 5 per cent market share, continue to be threatened by imports. These now stand at 65 per cent.

FII is meeting the challenge of margins and imports by increasing volumes and broadening its product range. It has a secure core to its business as 50 per cent of its sales go to Marks and Spencer.

Capital investment continues in the shoe manufacturing business and in the instrumentation and diagnostic part of the group. Although this only accounts for around 7 per cent of sales and profits, it is considered a useful part of the group.

The balance sheet is strong with £3.5 million of net cash. Acquisitions are being sought in manufacturing and scientific fields.

It is only due to the inclusion of Lotus for a full six months that profits rose in the half year. For the year as a whole, FII will do well to improve upon the £7.2 million of 1986-87.

At these levels, the shares stand on a prospective p/e of 6.6 times on fully diluted earnings of 37.7p. This is scarcely demanding but the shares are unlikely to catch the imagination until margins and import penetration stabilize.

STOCK MARKETS

Dealers hopeful of a pre-Budget rally

Share prices made a firm start to the account yesterday, boosting hopes among worried dealers that the market is about to enjoy an overdue, pre-Budget rally.

Sentiment was boosted by a strong performance from New York over the weekend - where the Dow Jones industrial average again went above 2,000 - and another confident survey of industrial trends from the CBI. Suggestions that the Chancellor may decide to make alterations to the rules concerning capital gains tax also provided a cheerier outlook. But turnover remained pitifully thin, with only 324 million shares traded.

Market men are worried that, unless there is a pickup in the levels of business, the rally may not last.

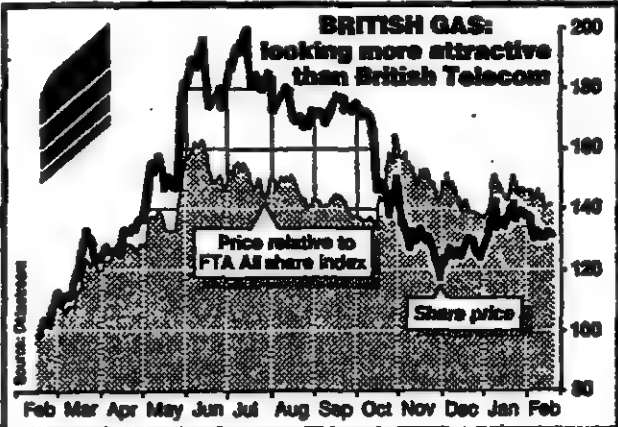
Prices closed slightly below their best levels of the day as Wall Street made a hesitant start in resumed trading, but dealers were clearly heartened by the day's performance.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 17.4 higher at 1,747.2, having been 19.4 up, the narrower FT index of 30 shares rose 13.7 to 1,396.3.

Overseas buyers, tempted by the strong pound and base rates of 9 per cent, chased government securities, which scored gains of 1/2 at the longer end in early trading. But they failed to hold their best levels and closed mixed.

Analysts at Kleinwort Greaves Securities, the broker, are advising clients to switch out of British Telecom and into British Gas.

Concern about the Office of Fair Trading referral, the mild winter weather and the 40p



BRITISH GAS: looking more attractive than British Telecom

Wellcome continued to draw strength from a recent encouraging report in *The Lancet*, the medical journal, about the recent tests which have been carried out with Retrovir, its anti-Aids drug.

The tests, carried out on a small group of HIV positive sufferers, reduced the levels of the virus and produced only mild and infrequent side-effects.

Mr Jonathan de Pas, a pharmaceuticals analyst at Robert Fleming, Wellcome's broker, says that current estimates of Retrovir sales take no account of it being widely used among the HIV positive population. He claims that sales targets will be exceeded.

Mr de Pas is currently expecting pretax profits for the current year, to August 31, to grow from £169.1 million to £220 million in 1989. Wellcome ended a further 20p higher at 455p - making a two-day lead of 44p - as around 3 million shares were traded. Mr de Pas rates the shares as a strong buy.

The rise in the Wellcome share price might have been higher but for reports resurfacing again that the Wellcome Foundation is preparing to sell more shares in the company.

When Wellcome was floated on the market in 1986, the foundation offered 25 per cent of the equity, raising £200 million. At current levels, it would only have to sell around 10 per cent of its remaining holding to raise the same amount.

Dee Corporation, which has just escaped the clutches of Barter & Dobson following an abortive £2 billion bid, was again celebrating with a 4p rise to 181p, after 183p. Some fund managers are convinced that Dee shares are now a good bet. They know that Mr Alec Monk, the chairman, and the rest of the board will have to start providing better returns at Dee if they are to repay the loyalty shown by shareholders.

The Dee share price has been a dull performer in the past couple of years following an aggressive acquisition programme which was mostly financed by the issue of extra shares.

Old takeover favourites were singled out for attention. Elys (Wimbledon), the department store, soared 110p to 705p in a thin market. There is talk that Ward White is on the verge of selling its near-30 per cent stake in the company.

Ward White, headed by Mr Philip Birch, inherited the shareholding when it bought Owen Owen and, before the crash, was said to have been offered nearly £9 a share for it, compared with Elys' asset value of £13 a share.

Lloyds Chemists, the retail pharmacist, advanced by 8p to 138p, after 145p, on takeover speculation.

Lloyds is one of the few Raine Industries, the housebuilding, construction and civil engineering group, formed 1p to 80p. SBCI Savory Mills, the broker, is bullish about the group's short-term prospects. It expects Raine's pretax profits to triple to £3.8 million this year, with dividends also up sharply.

remaining, quoted chemist chains after Woolworth's bids for Tip Top Drugstores and Share Drug. Dealers take the view that Lloyds could be next in the firing line.

Amari, the metals and plastics group, advanced by 3p to 164p on the news that Suter, the industrial conglomerate, headed by Mr David Abell, had increased its holding in the company to more than 23 per cent.

Talk in the marketplace suggests that Amari's days as an independent company are numbered.

No other companies have a delectable stake in Amari, but it is reckoned that Eversed Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, headed by the Abdullah brothers and Glyndwr International, the Midlands engineer, have stakes just below the delectable, 5 per cent level.

Telephone Rentals, the telecommunications and equipment group, advanced by 12p to 212p on renewed hopes of a bid.

Cable and Wireless, Eacal Electronics and Plessey have all been tipped as possible bidders.

Chills and Wireless remains the favourite to make a move, but experts believe that would prompt a counter-bid from Plessey, which has close trading ties with Teletrans.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, believes that Teletrans shares are a buy on fundamentals alone.

Teletrans' full-year figures are due in April and ESW is going for a pretax profit of £20.1 million against £17.2 million last year.

Stake-building stories boosted Rascal, 5p higher at 215p.

Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, was again mentioned. But this is being discounted by sources close to Hanson. The name of Hanson was also being linked to Hawker Siddeley as the latter's shares rose 7p to 491p.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
February 15	February 22	February 22	February 22
Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88
Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88	Call options were taken out on 22/2/88

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278

**DEWHURST**  
ADVANCED CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

Turnover	1987	1986
£25,293,958	£4,464,700	
Profit before tax	£589,898	£352,266
Dividends (pence per share)	1.41p	1.20p
Earnings (pence per share)	5.04p	3.51p

Current demand is good in home and overseas markets, and prospects are bright. Prospects for further improvement in interim and full year figures look encouraging at the present time.

A. Dewhurst, Chairman

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**SOUTHERN TELEPHONES**

41 Bedford Place, Southampton

Prices close higher for the eighth day in succession

(Reuters) - Prices closed higher for the eighth consecutive day yesterday on momentum from recent gains and a generally promising trend overseas. Profit-taking by investment trusts pulled prices off their peaks but investors' sentiment remained confident.

A broker said: "It's the largest Monday volume we've had in a long while. And Mondays tend to be indecisive."

The Nikkei Dow index rose by 73.30 points, or 0.30 per cent, to 24,946.71 after reaching a peak of 24,949.35. It advanced by 98.05 points on Friday. Rises outnumbered falls by 13 to 10 on a turnover of 830 million shares against 1 billion on Friday.

Securities houses, communications, rubber, railway/bus, construction, property, electric power, gas and trucking

Shares closed steady but off highs trading.

Brokers said that investors returning from last week's Chinese New Year holiday were encouraged by the gains in New York and Tokyo but buying interest was curtailed in the absence of incentives.

Properties and banks led the advance with Bank of East Asia rising by 90 cents to HK\$20.30, Hang Seng Bank 50 cents to HK\$8.30 and HK Bank 10 cents to HK\$7.05.

Sun Hung Kai Properties climbed 20 cents to HK\$8.55 and Henderson 15 cents to HK\$4.35.

Shares closed steady but off highs trading.

Dow drops point in early deals

New York (Reuters) - Shares were narrowly mixed in early trading yesterday with blue chips showing small changes. Eastman Kodak was open but lacked bids and offers. Polaroid is selling Kodak for \$5.7 billion. Brokers said that some general buying extended from late on Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 1 point lower at 2,013.59 and declining issues were slightly behind rising ones. Texaco gained 1/2 to 43 1/2 in active trading. Talks with Saudi Arabia about a 50 per cent stake in Texaco's refining and marketing network were far advanced, a trade publication said.

On Friday, the Dow average rose by 28.18 to 2,014.59. MA Hanna Co said it was aware of no specific reason for the rise in its shares yesterday morning. Hanna was up by 1 1/2 to 23 1/2. The stock traded between 17 and 29 in 1987, ending the year at 19 1/2.

Quiet trading

(Reuters) - The market closed moderately higher across the board yesterday on buying support and bargain-hunting, despite late profit-taking. Sustained rallies on Wall Street and other markets aided sentiment. But trading was fairly quiet as most institutions remained on the sidelines in the absence of fresh factors.

The *Strait Times* industrial index climbed by 10.50 points to 900.54.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	RECENT ISSUES
Alloy	482
Alloy	482
Alloy	482
Alloy	482

WALL STREET

Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278	Alloy	482
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278	Alloy	482
Alloy	482	Costs	2,278	Alloy	482



## Morgan director resigns to start corporate finance firm

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr George Magan, one of the leading lights of Morgan Grenfell's corporate finance department, resigned yesterday to join Mr Rupert Hambro, managing director of JO Hambro, in a new corporate finance venture.

The new company, called Hambro Magan, will operate much like the corporate finance department of a leading merchant bank, offering advice on mergers and acquisitions, buyouts and floatations, Mr Magan said. "Since Big Bang there is great scope for smaller corporate finance operations which can give clients a more personal service," he added.

His departure from Morgan

Grenfell was described as "amiable" by both sides, and Mr Magan has undertaken not to persuade any of the bank's corporate finance staff to go with him. He has also agreed to adopt a "circumspect" attitude to his old clients at Morgan.

Mr Magan had been at Morgan for 13 years and was regarded as one of its corporate finance stars in the heady days before the Guinness affair. In the aftermath of the Guinness bid for Distillers, in which Morgan advised Guinness, however, the so-called star system was dismantled by Mr John Craven, the new chief executive, in favour of a more team-oriented approach.

But Mr Magan denied that his departure was the result of dissatisfaction with the re-organization. Only a month ago he had been promoted from being a director of the bank to being a group director. "I felt comfortable in the new structure but saw this new venture as a great opportunity," he said.

Mr Craven said: "Obviously his departure is rather a bore but I don't regard it as leaving a gaping void in our corporate finance department. We have great depth of talent there." Morgan Grenfell carried out more corporate finance deals than any other institution in the City last year, he added.

The new venture will in-

clude Mr Rupert Hambro, Mr James Hambro, his brother, and Mr Alton Irby. It marks a further expansion in the operations of the Hambro brothers who resigned from the family's traditional business, Hambro Bank, in 1986 to set up their own operation, JO Hambro.

Hambro Magan already has substantial capital support from a leading US leveraged buyout house as well as other international backers. "We are already aware of a number of clients who would want to work with us," Mr Magan said.

He added that he expected to work with merchant banks on many deals, in particular with Morgan Grenfell.

## British steel output up 32%

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Crude steel production, which has been on a rising trend for most of 1987, climbed further in January, especially in Britain and the US.

Production, on an annual comparison, was up by 17.5 per cent worldwide and by 17.6 per cent within the European Economic Community. British production jumped by 31.8 per cent compared with January last year, reflecting its greater economic growth. There was a similar increase in the US.

Britain, with 1.65 million tonnes, outpaced most of the rest of Europe where West Germany rose by 17.6 per cent, France 16.3 per cent and Italy 17.4 per cent. Belgium, with production of about two-thirds of that in Britain, rose 26 per cent.

Japan, which in January produced nearly six times as much crude steel as Britain, had an increase of 16.6 per cent, while South Korea increased production by 24 per cent.

The continued increase in crude steel production was reported by the International Iron and Steel Institute, which monitors performance in 30 countries, accounting for just under 60 per cent of total world production.

The prospects for improvement in Britain are still looking hopeful, with the British Steel Corporation reporting strong order books. But worldwide there is still excess capacity in steel and price wars seem likely.

Arco also revealed terms of its offer for the Tricentral convertible loan stock, £120 cash for every £100 nominal in issue.

The convertible terms threatened to become an issue, with institutional holders concerned that the offer might not reflect the large yield difference between the stock and Tricentral's ordinary shares. "Everybody will be happy now," said a leading institutional broker.

## COMMENT

### Ivory & Sime plans look likely to fail

The labyrinthine plans for re-organizing three Ivory & Sime investment trusts appear to be headed for deep trouble. The crucial shareholders' meetings are due to take place on Thursday and Friday and, worse luck for Ivory, need a 75 per cent majority in favour to carry the day.

There were indications yesterday from those in the market who take a special interest in the rarified world of investment trusts that enough professional ire has been aroused to block the proposals. Opponents of the £300 million plan claim that holders of more than 25 per cent of the votes involved are intending to vote against.

Up in Charlotte Square, they are not giving up hope just yet. The view yesterday afternoon was that proxies in so far have been supportive. No details were available. But the Ivory team reckons that if the same voting patterns continue, the scheme will go through. However, it is likely that those who find the proposals attractive have posted early.

Ivory has worked long and hard, some say too long, in attempting to devise a scheme which satisfies everyone. It arose from institutional pressure to bale out of trusts which had once been among the trailblazers in their field, but where recent performance left much to be desired. Some investors were only interested in making their exits at a price as close to asset value as possible.

Shareholders face a bewildering array of choices, some of which involve novel and complex investments. There is a 25-year equities index stock as part of a

split-level trust, Selective Assets. Or a so-called offshore umbrella fund with 15 sub-funds invested in a choice of bonds, equities and cash.

Small wonder that some investors are griping about future charges and Ivory's unwillingness to consider simpler and more direct solutions. If, as looks likely, the proposals fail, the episode will be far from closed. The pressure for liquidation and utilization will be strong and difficult to resist. The hawks are unlikely to give Ivory a second bite at the cherry.

### Testing times ahead

The US presidential campaign is going to provide some testing and destabilizing moments for the markets. Paul Volcker's warnings about the deficit yesterday came more in the category of self-defence than electioneering. There is a Reaganite school which already blames his tight money policy last year for the October crash, in the manner of Milton Friedman's analysis of 1929 and after. But the differences between Mr Volcker and the President's Council of Economic Advisers echo those between Robert Dole and George Bush.

Stones thrown in the argument over the trade deficit may cause bigger ripples. Yesterday, Clayton Yeutter, the President's trade representative, turned on the economically stagnant West Germans as a cause of America's trade troubles, charging that expected growth of 1 per cent was "not good enough" in terms of the world economy needs.

## The need for investigation

In principle, there is a good deal to be said for the Treasury Select Committee's proposals on reforming the Government's reportage of public spending. The expansion of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement to include practically all the big numbers agreed in the annual public expenditure survey has effectively dispensed with the need for Part I of the present White Paper, which now does little more than repeat in January what has been said in November. The interest of the White Paper lies in the small print about the plans and performance of individual departments.

The committee's proposal, which follows thinking on similar lines by its predecessor, is that Volume I of the White Paper should be amalgamated with the Autumn Statement while the detailed departmental chapters of Volume II should instead be issued in expanded form as departmental annual reports. The debate on the White Paper would be scrapped and replaced by debates arising from the scrutiny of the reports by select committees during the spring.

Departmental reports would allow the Government to produce a comprehensive set of measures of what £150 billion of taxpayers' money was actually buying - which in a single chapter of the White Paper is hardly feasible. Unfortunately, the major obstacle to a proper analysis of performance is much more likely to be the ambiguous attitude of the government machine to having its performance measured than any lack of opportunity to do so.

Reports on departmental spending will only be helpful if they contain more useful information than the present Public Expenditure White Paper. On the minus side, splitting up the White Paper will tend to obscure the need to make decisions on priorities.

In practice the pros and cons of splitting up the White Paper seem to be finely balanced. What is most needed is a searching investigation of the Government's plans, perhaps by the Public Accounts Committee advised by the National Audit Office, which could call departmental as well as Treasury ministers to account.

## Japanese car exports up in value

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The Japanese motor industry is sharply increasing the value of exports and in December reversed the decline in export volumes of cars and trucks.

Statistics from the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association show motor vehicle exports last year fell 4.5 per cent to 6,304 million. Exports of cars slipped 1.4 per cent to 4,507 million.

While the strength of the yen halted the consecutive annual rise in vehicle exports and forced manufacturers to pursue sales on the home market, the value of exports rose 10.7 per cent to \$5.57 billion (£3.18 billion).

In December the trend to selling more higher value vehicles overseas was even greater as the value of exports increased by 15.6 per cent.

Some 53.6 per cent of Japanese motor exports went to America and Canada in 1987 but the combination of higher prices, a contracting market and increasing production from the Japanese car plants in the US, accounted for a 9.1 per cent drop in volume to 5.38 million.

As strong demand in Europe pushed the new car market to record levels of more than 12 million last year, Japanese exports benefited, rising 5.1 per cent to 1,643 million. It had been feared imports would rise by up to 10 per cent but intense political lobbying and protests by French car-makers in particular, appear to have forced the Japanese to curb exports.

## Cockfield urges industry to play greater role on market

By Colin Narbrough

Lord Cockfield, the European Commission vice-president, yesterday appealed to Britain to make a major effort to catch up with its EEC partners if it wants to reap full benefit from the truly common market planned for 1992.

The former Conservative minister's tone was more conciliatory than in his recent speeches on Britain's attitude towards Europe, in which he warned the Government that its opposition to harmonizing indirect taxation could lead to Britain being isolated by other Community states.

Addressing a London seminar, "1992 - Opportunity or Threat," organized by the Federation of British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Associations, Lord Cockfield said it was surprising and worrying that Britain had taken so long to wake up to its opportunities.

He called on trade and industry to play a greater role in spreading the word about the economic promise of a single European market of 320 million people.

In spite of his repeated criticism of the Government's stance on key aspects of the "single European market," he welcomed the Government's plans to launch a publicity campaign in April about the 1992 objectives.

The campaign, however, would come almost three years after the scheme was endorsed by the EEC summit. "For us it is late but not too late. There is much ground to catch up. But we can catch it up," he said.

A major effort was called for



Working towards a true common market: Lord Cockfield.

in which trade and industry, finance and commerce had a crucially important part to play, stressing that with 50 per cent of its trade now conducted with the EEC, there was no time to waste.

Lord Cockfield said it was imperative to make it clear to industry and business by the end of this year that the front-runner EEC market would come into effect on time.

He underlined the importance of the new approach adopted by Brussels, which stresses "essential requirements" rather than the harmonization of technical standards was concerned.

Britain had a long tradition and expertise in the field of standards and should be in the forefront of the movement to establish EEC-wide technical standards.

## Smallbone raises £3m for US expansion

By Alexandra Jackson

Smallbone, the manufacturer of kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms, has raised £3 million net of expenses to support its expansion in the United States.

The rights issue of 3,096,446 7½ per cent convertible preference shares at £1 per share will be on the basis of 55 convertible shares for every 100 ordinary shares held.

Smallbone has generated \$2.8 million (£1.24 million) of sales since it opened a Manhattan showroom in New York last March and has \$5 million of forward sales.

Trading in the second half of the year is ahead of expectations. In November, Smallbone reported an 11 per cent rise in profits from £387,000 to £816,000. The shares fell 7p yesterday to 243p.

## Saudis may take stake in Texaco oil refinery

By Our City Staff

Talks between Texaco and Saudi Arabia concerning the sale of a 50 per cent holding in Texaco's US East Coast refining and marketing network are now believed to be at an advanced stage.

But Mr James Kinnear, the chief executive of Texaco, would not be drawn further than the company's statement that it was actively engaged in talks to sell refinery interests.

The statement followed re-

ports that Texaco was considering selling the Saudis a 50 per cent stake in its Gulf of Mexico refineries for more than \$1 billion.

It is believed that Saudi Arabia is interested in downstream expansion.

The overall cost of the deal with Texaco was estimated by oil industry sources to be in the region of \$1.5 billion and the Saudis are likely to want to pay in oil rather than cash.

## Dramatic lines

Mark Nicholls, the Warburg director who was responsible for rescuing Birmid Qualecast from the eager clutches of Blue Circle, nearly missed hearing immediately about the dramatic turn of events last Thursday which left Birmid independent after a recount of shareholders' acceptances. He was dining at a restaurant and had, like every good Yuppie does these days, taken his mobile telephone with him, when he received an urgent call from Robin Bradley, a director of Barings, Blue Circle's merchant bank. The line was so bad that Nicholls could not understand the message and Bradley promised to call back, managing only to assure Nicholls that the news he had to impart would not spoil his appetite.

The second call was, however, no better and eventually Nicholls volunteered to use the restaurant's pay phone. But the wretched thing refused to accept the Warburg man's cash and, in desperation, he finally reversed the charges. Or at least he tried to. For it was only when the parsimonious telephonist had established that it was indeed only a local call that he eventually managed to get through and heard that Blue Circle had, in fact, failed to clinch its prey. There is, however, some poetic justice in the fact that Barings had to pay for that final telephone call.

Sign pinned to an external wall of the Stock Exchange, supposedly by an adjacent shop: "Free gift with every £10 purchase."

Carol Leonard

## A taxing question of tippie

With everyone trying to guess whether Nigel Lawson will cut another slice off personal taxes in the Budget, MPs too busy to sit through the whole speech (and, let us face it, who can afford to give up all those lucrative modelling contracts?) can steal a march by studying what the Chancellor pours into his tumbler to steady his nerves. The trend seems to suggest the stronger the fortifier, the bigger the tax cut in personal taxes he is emboldened to bestow on the waiting House. In 1986 it was Ashbourne water and a 1p in the pound cut. Last year it was a white wine spritzer and 2p. This year could well herald another change in his tippie, if only because of the risks that often accompany the drinking of too much hock and seltzer. Oscar Wilde, according to the Bejerman poem, was sipping the stuff when the police came to arrest him at the Cadogan Hotel. So this year, if the Chancellor produces the Glenlivet malt I predict the stock market will soar before he has even opened his famous little briefcase. If he reaches for the tap water, it is each man for himself as far as I am concerned.

## High-flyer

Russell Goward, Australian boss of Charterhall, the investment company, never spends long in the same hemisphere. "Once a fortnight I spend a day on a plane, heading from London to Sydney, or back again. That's where I do my

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Burger ad lacks relish

Burger King was one of the first casualties of Martin Sorrell's hostile takeover last year of J Walter Thompson, the Madison Avenue advertising agency. It was the largest agency switch ever when Burger King, fed-up with being the world's second favourite burger, decided to take its \$200 million account away from JWT and hand it to NW Ayer. Americans will have a chance to judge the new campaign when it hits their TV

screens next week. But here is a foretaste for those of you who cannot wait to see the new campaign. In one of the little vignettes, an eccentric elderly man looks admiringly at a Burger King Whopper, complimenting the makers for "doing it like he used to do it". This agitates his wife, who notes that "you always said you were going to do it, but you never did". If I had \$200 million, I could think of a few better ways to spend it.

best corporate thinking - no telephones or other distractions," says Goward who used to run Sir Ron Brierley's property operations in Australia and New Zealand.



"Perhaps we should get Eddie Edwards to sponsor us - after all, we're going downhill fast..."

### New oil patch

BP, which had hoped to end the year with a much enlarged shareholder register - remember the 6 million who sent in share inquiry applications during October only days before the stock market crash ended that hope - has nevertheless added so many new shareholders during recent years that it is moving the venue of its AGM from the Barbican Theatre to the much larger Royal Albert Hall. In deference to its Kuwaiti shareholders, who now hold 20 per cent of the company, it should perhaps, however, have selected the Central Hall, Westminster, owned by the Methodist Church and very firmly "dry". Another alternative could have been the Scottish Exhibition Centre just along the Clyde from what will soon be its new Glasgow branch office, the only recently completed Britoil building.

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR MORE SIGNATURES.

**Geoff Bradford, Proprietor, B.K.L. Furniture Manufacturers, Scunthorpe.**  
Small workshop to 15,000 sq. ft. factory in 5 years.

**Robert C. Perkins, Chairman and M.D., Somers Handling Plc, Dudley.**  
Internationally recognised, with sales increasing by 50% since '87 management buyout.

**John Harris, Joint M.D., Frontier Plastics Ltd, Gwent.**  
Manufacturers of 'Sharpale' Leaders in surgical disposal equipment throughout the world.

**Ernie Bostwick, Chairman, Isocom Ltd., Hartlepool.**  
In just 5 years, has become market leader in hi-tech products like opto-electronic couplers.

**David Bell, M.D., Gamcock Valley Mushrooms Ltd., Ayrshire.**  
Workforce of 77 and a turnover of £1¼m in 5 years.

**Bob Haigh, M.D., Internet Refractory Products Ltd., Sheffield.**  
A revitalised product range and sales performance since last year's management buy-out.

**Roger McKechnie, Chairman, Derwent Valley Foods Ltd., Consett.**  
From start-up to market leader with Philias Fogg adult snacks in less than 5 years.

**David Ly Bell.**

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Indicate areas of particular interest



# Gamble on Yale is safe bet, says Valor chief

The Committee still envisages a Treasury publication in

Yale and NuTone were bought from First City Industries, the Canadian financial services group — to the delight of the managers who felt more at home with a manufacturing company such as Valor.

**Michael Montague: £285m gamble 'was a wonderful deal'**

The City appears to be reserving judgement. Initially the shares were marked up way ahead of the 320p vendor placing price to pay for the deal, but then lost more than half their value as attention has focused on the problems in the US economy. Yesterday they were 258p.

**"For several decades, leaders have been running organizations which neither they**

"The essential information for NHS managers is already present within the health service. The problem is that they are not being given the proper information systems to be able to look at it," he added.

		Cable					Radio					Pole				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Amalg	(528)	330	47	25	10	12	350	55	117	125	100	32	67	10	10	10
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Amalg	(531)	330	47	25	10	12	350	55	117	125	100	32	67	10	10	10
Amalg	(532)	330	47	25	10	12	350	55	117	125	100	32	67	10	10	10
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 <p><b>ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CARS</b> Profit before interest up 26%. 70% of sales exported - increases recorded in USA, Europe and Far East. Sales of Bentley increased by 29%.  Sales £186.2m (£175.1m) Profit before interest £22.0m (£17.5m)</p>	 <p><b>HOWSON-ALGRAPHY PRINTING PLATES</b> Howson-Algraphy exports to some 100 countries. Further success in Far East. Strong growth achieved in North America. Sales increased by 15%.  Sales £155.3m (£135.4m) Profit before interest £18.7m (£17.5m)</p>	 <p><b>DEFENCE &amp; AEROSPACE</b> New factory built in just 48 weeks. Widest range of armoured fighting vehicles in the world. Improved trading performance.  Sales £136.9m (£82.8m) Profit before interest £12.7m (£9.2m)</p>
 <p><b>BUSINESS FURNITURE</b> 6 international manufacturing locations. Sound growth in UK but trading difficult in France and US.  Sales £109.8m (£106.2m) Profit before interest £5.1m (£6.4m)</p>	 <p><b>MARINE ENGINEERING</b> 73% of sales overseas. Notable success in USSR, Far East and US. Manufactures in the UK, US and Europe. Improved performance despite difficult market conditions.  Sales £87.4m (£83.3m) Profit before interest £3.4m (£2.3m)</p>	 <p><b>MEDICAL &amp; SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT</b> World leader in neonatal intensive care equipment. Manufactures almost 50% of the world's baby incubators. 7 major new products launched during 1987.  Sales £70.3m (£44.7m) Profit before interest £6.0m (£4.7m)</p>

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RESULTS IN BRIEF	1987 £m	1986 £m
Sales	788.3	691.8
Profit before taxation	62.6	54.0
Profit after taxation	45.3	39.3
Shareholders' profit	42.3	31.1
Dividends	(17.5)	(15.2)
Profit retained	24.8	15.9
Earnings per 50p Ordinary Share	17.4p	16.3p

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

"1987 was a year of continuing progress. Pre-tax profits increased by 16%, on sales up by 14%. Our three largest businesses recorded particularly worthwhile increases. Capital expenditure rose by 48% and gearing was reduced from 33% to 28%. The final recommended net dividend of 4.0p makes a total of 6.7p for the year, a 12% increase on 1986.

I remain confident that, despite some international economic uncertainty, our strong portfolio of businesses will provide further opportunities for earnings growth in 1988."



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## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTU

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## TECHNOLOGY

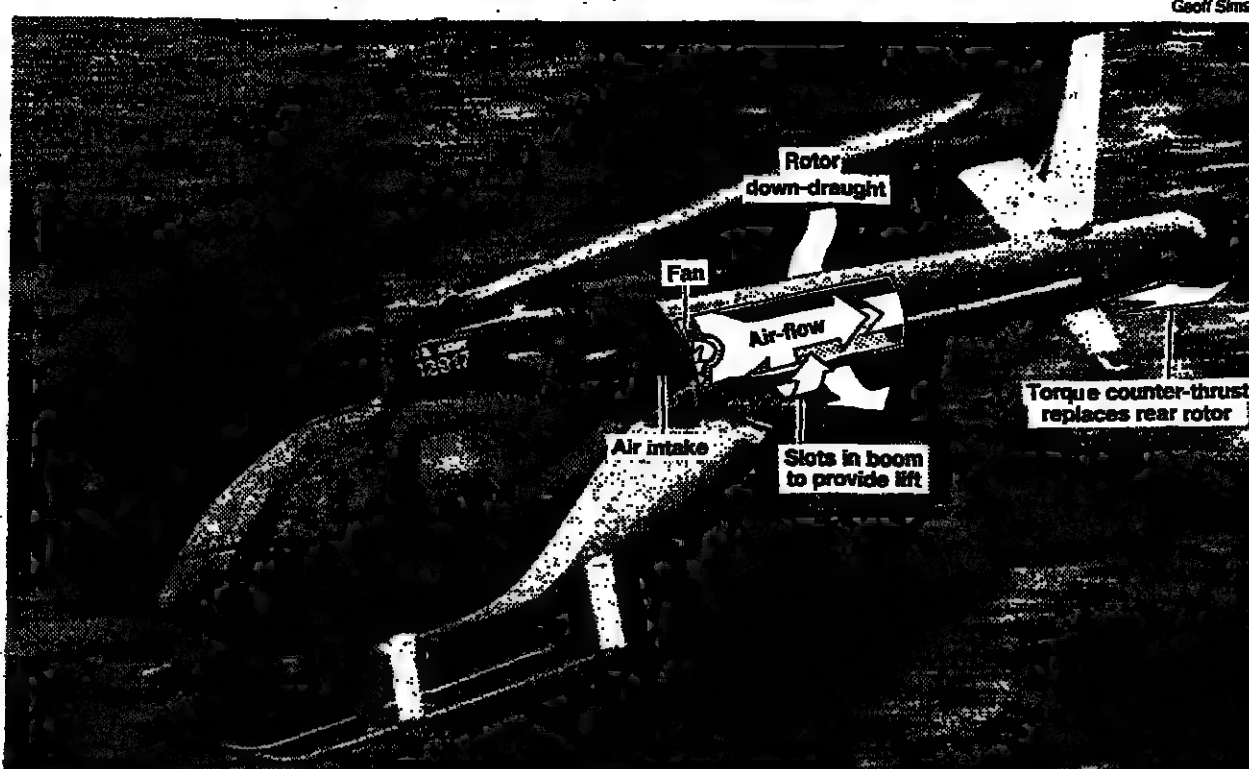
## Look! No tail rotor

Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, reports on an American invention that promises to solve a design problem that has long bedevilled the helicopter

American scientists have perfected a revolutionary design for a helicopter with no tail rotor. Helicopters have always been plagued by the need for a rotor at the rear to counter the torque created by the main blades. Pilots say that it makes flying a helicopter complex and users complain of the noise, complicated machinery and reduced performance.

Now McDonnell Douglas has produced a novel design which has excited both military and civilian operators throughout the United States.

Instead of the tail rotor they have built a fan inside the fuselage of the helicopter which pushes air along the tail boom. It is then vented out through nozzles at the rear of the boom which automatically counters the helicopter's natural efforts to "windmill" along with the main rotors.



Slots in the tail boom itself also provide lift by speeding up the flow of air created by the down-draught of the main rotor on one side, making handling easier and lighter.

The system is known as Notar — no tail rotor — and

has been on extensive trials in different helicopters. Now McDonnell Douglas is so convinced the system will work it is to produce a full production model, known as the MD 520N, for certification next year. McDonnell Douglas claims that tests have shown

"significant decreases in pilot workload, greatly increased safety to pilot and ground personnel and enhanced flight characteristics".

Until now, only large helicopters with twin rotors, such as the Chinook, have avoided the complications created by a

tail rotor. The US Army, which has tested Notar in a series of secret trials, is convinced it will prove invaluable in enabling helicopters to hide nearer to woods and trees by backing into the foliage without running the risk of the tail rotor hitting branches.

## Space: coming last in the final frontier

There are few more important issues in Britain today than the provision and exploitation of technology. We are a small country and unable to play a leading role in world trade in all areas of technology simultaneously yet we have a great deal of talent.

In the future the benefits of North Sea oil will recede, and the short-fall must be made good from increased returns to the exploitation of our human resources in export markets.

Some of our international competitors, such as France, Germany and Japan, have not had the benefit of the such indigenous natural resources, and therefore have already structured their industries to capture extensive overseas business.

We must ensure that our income is based on businesses and industry which are knowledge-intensive. These industries must use the technologies of highest growth and importance, including those relating to information, communication, biotechnology, materials and certain ones concerned with energy.

The British are very good at science and technology, so what is the problem? It is the old one that we are excellent at invention, often poor at application, and often hopeless at following through and taking advantage from our innovative position. Space provides some classical examples.

Twenty years ago we had a lead position in Europe in space-launch vehicles, but this was rejected by the politicians, and now continental Europe, led by the French, enjoys nearly £2 billion of worldwide orders for the Ariane satellite-launch vehicles.

There has been a greater aversion in recent decades to taking a risk — never more acutely visible than in the finance community, who prefer to wait for a track record to be established before putting in money at even extremely limited risk.

By then it is often too late, for the opportunity has all gone to other countries where people are more prepared to do their homework, size up the risk, and if reasonable, sup-

port a project. There is a threshold of expenditure in major projects below which money spent is wasted: representing the worst of both worlds — no flexibility of choice, no strength to influence the programmes — no access to new work and so on.

There are various examples, not least in space, where we are grossly below that threshold.

Our competitors are by no means the obvious ones in the future, as was exemplified by a



By Geoffrey Pardoe

indeed management. No longer is this true, as civil needs in space and communications now represent the leading edge of performance.

It is clear that we cannot afford prestige projects for their own sake. But it is vital to have a demonstrated technological capability to establish confidence in the world that Britain can deliver the best.

Is space merely a prestige project? Certainly it's full impact and importance is little understood, even in the more visible manifestations of space stations, manned space flight and space exploration.

Space is a deeply serious collective focus of many technologies which by direct or indirect application are essential to the nation for future growth.

It is a fact of fundamental importance that the citizens of our country seem to have missed; but it needs explaining why some 25 other nations, large and small, have national space policies and space programmes which their governments are supporting to an increasing extent. Britain is the one country in the world whose public funding on space is declining in real terms.

Continental European industrialists have been saying that what could not have been achieved in technical competition has now been handed to them on a plate by British politicians.

This is an extremely worrying situation, true not only in space but in other major projects. We should be aware that investment made now yields commercial benefit only after some 15 years or more.

We surely need improved awareness of how technology, which has the life blood of our society fits into it. The resources of human talent that we have in our engineers, scientists and business men is one the outside world covets, but one which our nation sometimes views with diffidence.

The author is chairman and managing director of General Technology Systems, which has provided consultancy services in over 50 countries

## Pharaohs' secrets fall to science

By Pearce Wright

Some of the most successful inventions come from exploiting existing technologies, in a new way rather than from a sudden insight from painstaking research in chemistry, physics or biology.

Innovation probably relies more on the process identified by Edward de Bono as lateral thinking than on the discovery of new knowledge.

A remarkable example of the genre, as the critics might say, is the latest development of a technology that has brought together archaeologists, nuclear-power engineers and designers of video-recording systems.

The archaeologist and nuclear engineer share a common interest. They need equipment to inspect objects in dark, inaccessible places. Both groups are now benefiting from a new type of remote-control camera system.

The archaeologists are using it for an expedition of the National Geographic Society to investigate a limestone pit lying in the shadow of the Great Pyramids.

It is believed to contain one of the extraordinary objects of antiquity known

as the Cheops funerary boats. These are the objects which Egyptologists believe were buried with Pharaohs as boats to carry their spirits on an eternal trip through the heavens.

However, the Egyptian government agreed to the current expedition by the Geographical Society only on condition that minimum disturbance occurred at the sealed chamber by the Great Pyramids.

So the archaeologists devised a new method of inspection with the help of Tim Taylor, a video-systems engineer. They modified a camera system that was originally devised to look into nuclear reactors.

But the new system included a development perfected at the research laboratories of the Central Electricity Generating Board which enables high-quality pictures to be obtained from places where only a minimum amount of lighting is possible.

At the Egyptian site, the expedition wanted to take samples of air from within the chamber, which had, the expedition hoped, remained uncontaminated for 4,600 years in addition to

viewing the ancient objects. Camera equipment, with a zoom lens, was lowered through the lock. The camera head incorporated a novel method for piping light into the chamber.

The light came along a 200-metre, fibre-optic cable that was connected to the remote-control unit. The use of a fibre-optic light beam solved the problem of heat when trying to incorporate a conventional lamp into the head of a camera.

Nevertheless, when there is still inadequate lighting, a second advance provides high-quality video pictures.

The techniques are referred to as Isis — increased sensitivity by image sensing integration — and Chop — control of highlight over-load on photo-conductive tubes.

What these provide are an increase of up to 30 times in the sensitivity of the camera with the ability to take good pictures in conditions where there is low lighting power and an improvement in the picture contrast between the black-and-white levels so that highlight and shadowy areas can be viewed simultaneously.

## EVENTS

■ **Entrepreneurs Exhibition**, March 3-5, Business Design Centre, Islington, London (01-493 0000)

■ **Cebit Hannover Fair**, March 16-23, Messe/Expo, Hannover

■ **Electron & BBC Micro Show**, March 19-20, UMIST, Manchester (0625 578888)

■ **Cadcam 88**, March 22-24, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (01-608 1161)

■ **Visit Recruitment Fair**, March 25-26, Cumberland Hotel, London, (01-282 1234)

■ **Computer Recruitment Fair**, March 25-26, Rainbow Rooms, London (0491 881010)

■ **Computers in Retailing**, March 29-31, Metropole Hotel, Brighton (01-834 1717)

■ **Scottish Computer Show**, April 12-14, Glasgow (01-881 5051)

■ **Computer Recruitment Fair**, April 15-16, New Century Hall, Manchester (0491 881010)

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## Strange case of the bottle-tops

Why should a process for sealing aluminium tops to plastic milk bottles suddenly go wrong, when for years it has produced half a million a week, writes Pearce Wright.

The detective work that revealed why the metal and polymer suddenly failed to bond was cited last week, by Dr Geoffrey Thornton, as an illustration of the benefits of research in the field of surface science.

The answer to the bottle-top problem lay in contamination, at levels of less than 10 parts per million, in the aluminium foil by magnesium. One of the properties of the contaminating element is that it migrates to the surface of the aluminium. Once there, even though in trace amounts, it disrupts the bonding process.

Dr Thornton, who will be deputy director of a new university research centre on surface science to start work at Liverpool University in June, referred to the case last week to demonstrate how this esoteric sounding area of research is gaining in importance for industry.

An investment of £10 million over six years in the centre by the Science and Engineering Research Council, over six years, also marks the economic relevance that is being attached to surface science.

The establishment of the centre came on the advice of leading industrial scientists from companies, as well as academic researchers. If another £2 million comes from contract research for industry and the University Grants Committee supports the centre, the new unit will be a formidable international leader.

Further, the Liverpool group will be one of four so-called Interdisciplinary Research Centres, IRCs, which establish a break with the past in the funding of basic research of universities in the UK.

Another £5 million will establish an IRC in engineering design at Glasgow University, and one in molecular sciences at Oxford.

A start on the establishment of IRCs began two months ago with a grant of £4.5 million to Cambridge. That is for a centre to carry out work on high-temperature super conductivity.

A decision on a fifth IRC has been taken for work in "synthesis and characterization of semiconductor and novel materials". The start of that centre, to be based at Imperial College, London, will depend on the availability of funds.

Dr Neville Richardson, director of the new IRC, said the initial scientific programme was aimed at four areas that had implications for advances in micro-electronics, the design of catalysts for the chemical industry, in understanding corrosion and fatigue of metals.

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## TECHNOLOGY

Big Blue gets a jump ahead of its rivals

## The giant throws down a gauntlet

From David Sanger in New York

Seeking to out-manoeuvre several Japanese competitors, IBM has introduced an operating system for its largest computers. It said the system would be provided without charge to owners of its most advanced mainframes.

The new product should increase the efficiency with which IBM mainframes manipulate billions of bits of data. It appears to be a change that will take competitors such as Fujitsu, Hitachi and other makers of IBM-compatible mainframes perhaps up to two years to replicate. By providing the new operating system to its customers, IBM made it clear that it was sending a message to corporate users that have switched to less-expensive Japanese equipment.

"I don't feel really bad if customers who chose something else feel left out," said Carl Conti, who heads IBM Enterprise Systems, the newly formed organization that develops the company's largest computers. IBM also announced two new versions of the 3090E, two new models of

its mid-sized 4381 processors and several new systems for high-capacity data storage that had long been urged by IBM users.

IBM has been under increasing pressure to raise sales of its mainframes, historically the company's most profitable machines. More and more, analysts and IBM users say the current 3090 line is under-powered. Many have chosen to buy less-expensive older models — often used equipment — rather than invest in IBM's state-of-the-art equipment.

Now IBM seems to have made that choice more difficult. The new operating system, built around what IBM calls a new Enterprise System Architecture, will run existing application programs written for IBM mainframes. But a range of new application programs will be written to take advantage of the more powerful software announced last week, so many owners of older equipment will ultimately be forced to upgrade their equipment.

The announcement will chiefly benefit users who run huge programs on IBM equipment, especially for numerically intensive engineering and mathematical tasks.

The new IBM operating system will allow its mainframes to "address" about 16 trillion characters of data, roughly an 8,000-fold improvement over the current system.

But performance advantages will be minimal, at least initially. The company said its largest processor should run about 12 percent faster under the new operating system.

It would not make any predictions about speed increases in the overall computer systems, which involve far more equipment.

IBM's move is the latest tactic in a never-ending war of one-upmanship between the world's biggest computer maker and the companies that offer compatible equipment.

Often, IBM simply makes hardware changes that increase the speed of a machine.

## Pressure on IBM continues

From Geoff Wheelwright in New York

The last week has been tough on IBM, the world's biggest computer company, as leading competitors outlined plans aimed at reducing the giant's domination. Apple Computer has given more details of the equipment it will produce to make its Macintosh micros connect with Digital Equipments.

At a trade show in New York last week, no fewer than 20 software companies — including large firms such as Ashton-Tate and Lotus — were showing new versions of their software packages that include such built-in links, a keen demand for the tie-up.

Ironically, it was the release last year of Apple's Macintosh II which can run IBM PC applications — that allowed the Apple and DEC deal to bear fruit. The fact that the Mac II

could use IBM software — although very few corporations have been seen to use it for the purpose — allowed the machine to fulfil the IBM-compatibility tick-box on corporate buyers' checklists. Once inside corporations, however, people have been using the machines for running Apple's own easier-to-use software and linking to minicomputers.

IBM is following the move towards easier to use software with the OS/2 Presentation Manager system to be released later this year.

Before it arrives, however, many other manufacturers are starting to release the OS/2 operating system, which will allow PC-compatible computers using the 286 and 386 computer processors to run more than one task at a time.

## No mimics on the tapped line

By Robert Matthews

Last week's announcement that Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has set up a joint venture with the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel to develop data security products, highlights just how sophisticated the field has become in recent years.

The cryptographic techniques that the new company, called News Datacom, is to exploit are far removed from the cipher wheels and Enigma machines of the popular imagination.

Professor Adi Shamir, technical advisor to the new company and professor of applied mathematics at the Institute, is world famous for his work in data security techniques.

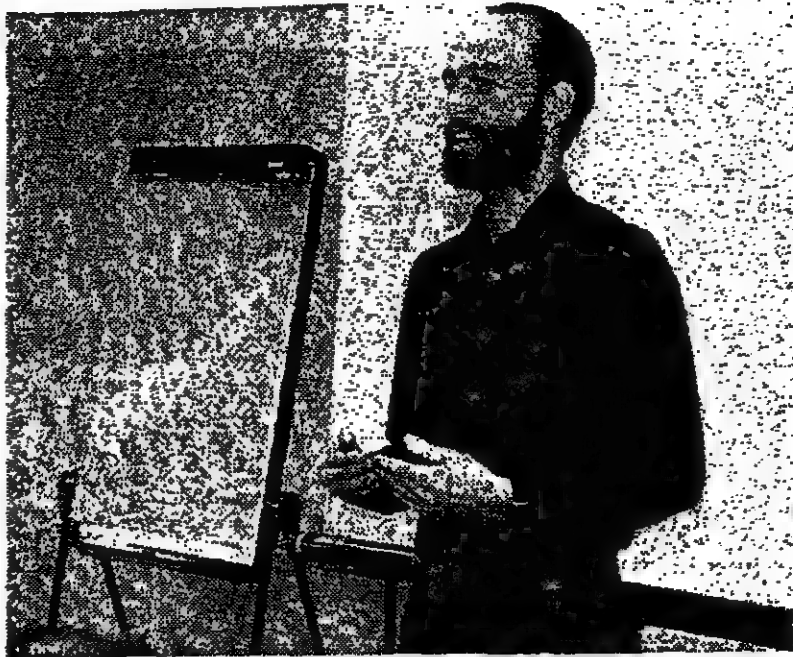
News Datacom has exclusive use of one of his most important breakthroughs: the Fiat-Shamir algorithm, a way of ensuring that communication is taking place between authorized end-users, which cannot be mimicked by a third party, even if the communication line is being tapped.

This ability, which makes it far superior to other user identification techniques, such as passwords, results from the use of so-called "zero-knowledge proofs", a concept developed by mathematicians in 1985.

This enables one end-user to convince another of their true identity to any degree of accuracy by answering questions about a subject whose full nature is never revealed.

An analogy helps to explain the idea behind the technique.

Suppose Jack needs to convince Jill that he is who he claims to be. Jack has



Adi Shamir: 'The beauty of the algorithm'

a huge map which he knows only he and Jill have. On this map there are two points, A and B, which Jill can see are connected by a series of roads.

Jack can convince Jill of his identity by proving that he knows how to get between two points, A and B on the map. However, wary of eavesdroppers, he offers to explain how to get from A or from B to a randomly-chosen point along the roads between them.

This obviates the need to give the

route between A or B in full, which eavesdroppers could write down and use to fool Jill into thinking they have the map too.

Jack simply asks Jill to say whether she wants to start from A, or from B. The law of probability means that if Jack were simply guessing the route from the specified starting point, he would give the wrong route at least 50 per cent of the time.

By repeating this procedure many times with lots of different, randomly-

chosen points, Jack can convince Jill he really does have the map to any degree of accuracy she wants, but the full route from A to B is never revealed.

The analogy is not perfect: it is conceivable that by eavesdropping on the conversations between Jack and Jill enough times, all the routes could be recorded, enabling the map to be reconstructed.

The Fiat-Shamir algorithm gets around this problem by using a technique developed by Professor Shamir and two American mathematicians in the mid-1970s. This is based on a so-called "trapdoor" function: a mathematical operation that is easy to carry out, but very difficult to undo. It gets its name from the analogy of trying to escape from a vast, pitch-dark room by finding a tiny trapdoor.

Specifically, the Fiat-Shamir algorithm exploits the computational difficulty of breaking down a very large (say, 100 digit) number into two roughly equal prime factors.

Put simply, the use of RSA, as well as zero-knowledge proofs means that, even if eavesdroppers do find out what the two end-users are talking about, they face an extremely long task breaking down the information they have into anything they can exploit in future.

The beauty of the algorithm, explains Professor Shamir, is that it can be built into hardware that will fit even on "smart cards", and enables the identity of end-users to be checked in less than a second.

## A new medium for storage

By Matthew May

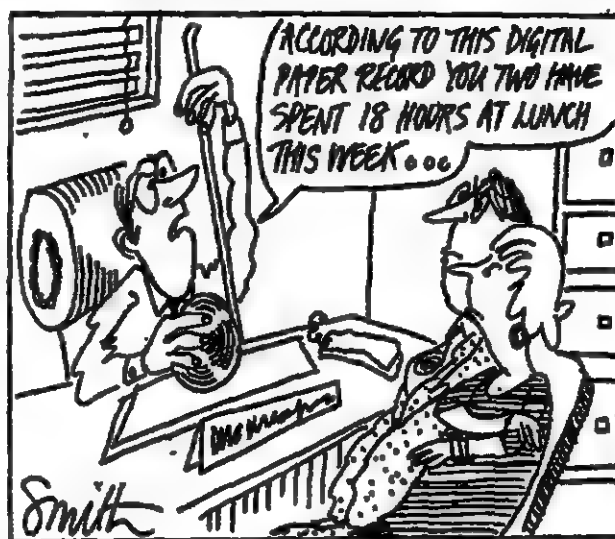
Digital paper is the latest buzzword coined by scientists to describe a new and extremely cheap form of data storage.

Last week scientists from ICI Electronics announced a way of storing information optically based on laser technology and a plastic film. It holds out the promise both of providing a huge capacity and costing less than a third of a penny for each megabyte used.

The plastic film used is thinly coated with a dye sensitive to infra-red and burnt off with a laser. It means that the film cannot be reused — it is "write only" in computer jargon — but because of the low cost ICI believes it will be thrown away quite happily when no longer needed "just like paper".

A Canadian company, Crea, has been working with ICI for a year on a tape and drive unit using the technology that will store a "terabyte" of information equivalent to 500 million pages of A4 text. The average access time to retrieve a piece of information would be 28 seconds.

More modestly a 2,400 foot



reel of half inch tape could store 6000 gigabytes capable of storing the contents of 1000 compact discs or 300 full-length feature films. Future laser technology could double the storage density. Drives for disc versions of "paper" are being designed by a US-based firm Omega.

Such awesome capacities as the terabyte may seem to have little practical application but one use envisaged is for companies using the technology to store its entire computer activity each day providing audit trails and a complete record to track back to if necessary.

Other potential uses include the storage of the massive quantity of satellite data available as well as document imaging. Digital paper — so

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## TECHNOLOGY

## Row over Euro TV standards

Last week a group of 10 British satellite television channels came together to make an unprecedented joint announcement. It constituted both good and bad news for the Astra satellite project, which hopes to achieve lift-off this autumn.

The good news was that for the first time the channels admitted publicly that they were keen to take slots on the 16-channel Astra satellite, whose "footprint" will cover virtually the whole of western Europe.

The bad news was that they wanted their programmes transmitted not in the standard favoured by Astra, along with most European satellite broadcasters and consumer electronics manufacturers, known as D2-MAC, but in the more powerful D-MAC system developed in Britain and due to be used by the UK's own direct-broadcast satellite venture, BSF.

The decision is a blow to Astra's hopes of becoming a supplier of truly "pan-European" services, because most potential viewers in continental Europe will have D2-MAC receivers and will be unable to receive channels broadcast using the different standard.

On the other hand, it is good news for potential viewers in Britain if D-MAC receivers can be made available in time for the start of the Astra service. Television sets or satellite TV decoders capable



● Nick Higham reports from the battlefront of Astra European satellite project, which hopes to have lift-off in the autumn

of receiving D-MAC will also be able to handle D2-MAC signals. The full range of Astra channels, whatever their language or country of origin, will thus be available to British viewers.

The big question is whether D-MAC receivers will be ready in time for Astra's launch. The answer is almost certainly no. At present, microchips capable of handling both standards are still in development, and until they are commercially available, no TV set manufacturer can put a MAC receiver on the market.

Whatever the system, a receiver, decoder and external receiving dish will retail at around £385 – or £500 for viewers who choose to buy a new TV set with the satellite receiver built-in.

The D2-MAC option is

## New ways of going on the air

By Pearce Wright

The Government has coined the word "narrowcasting", as opposed to broadcasting, to describe its intention to allow up to six new operators to run specialised satellite services for transmitting voice, vision, film, music or data in Britain.

In principle, anyone can apply for a licence. But operators will be allowed only one-way transmission from a central point via a Eutelsat or Intelsat satellite to dish receivers of "closed user groups".

The new services are not intended for domestic communications. The transmissions would be coded, and expensive dishes two metres in diameter equipped with elaborate electronic units for decoding.

favoured by manufacturers of more than 70 per cent of the television sets sold in Europe, especially those which already use ITT's Digivision system in their sets. They include the Dutch electronic giant Philips, Thomson in France – which now owns the UK's main set manufacturer, Ferguson – and the Scandinavian Salora-Luxor.

Meanwhile a rival con-



phering the signals would be needed at the reception end.

Giving examples of possible closed user groups at the announcement of the scheme last week, Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, suggested that a brewery chain might distribute a music programme continuously to its pubs this way.

However, there are indications that the price charged by British Telecom to distribute such services lies behind Lord Young's aim to in-

troduce a degree – however limited, of competition for the two privileged holders of licences to earn revenue by operating satellite. The other is Mercury.

Hence, the decision to invite up to six operators to tender for a licence to operate specialised satellite services takes the government's policy of liberalising telecommunications services a step further forward.

The space industry, which manufactures the equipment, was disappointed by the plan.

At the end of last year the

multi-MAC consortium succeeded in producing a working prototype of their chip. It also promises to have it available in sufficient quantities for production by mid-summer, and to have 200,000 available to manufacturers by the end of the year.

Not only will the multi-MAC chip enable reception of D-MAC systems – which have much greater carrying

capacity than D2-MAC allowing transmission of extra sound channels and extra data alongside the television picture, and ultimately allowing a switch over to wide-screen high definition television – but it will also include from the start the descrambling mechanism which is vital for pay-TV channels.

They hope to have sufficient chips for full-scale production by the end of this year, experts are treating their claims with some scepticism. Until recently Astra favoured D2-MAC for all its channels, as the system backed by most set manufacturers and as the system most likely to be on the market in time for Astra's pre-Christmas 1988 launch. Since the multi-MAC chip can also handle D2-MAC, D2-MAC would be the only system with chips available from two sources.

But pressure from the British channels, who constitute Astra's main market, and the rapid progress made by the multi-MAC consortium, have led the company to change its mind.

If neither D2-MAC nor multi-MAC chips are available by the time Astra is switched on towards the end of this year, the whole argument becomes somewhat academic. All the channels on the satellite will then have no option but to transmit in PAL, the terrestrial TV system used in the UK, Germany, and Scandinavia, or in the French SECAM.

## How the sea could help to heal a wound

By Pat Sweet

A British company is waiting to hear whether it will get the official go-ahead for general practitioners to use a revolutionary new form of wound dressing made from brown seaweed. Britcain's product, called Kaltostat, is in use in hospitals around the country but has yet to be approved for inclusion on the drug tariff list of items GPs can prescribe.

It is made from a seaweed called Laminaria Hyperborea which is found in areas from the north-west coast of Scotland up to Scandinavia. Traditional uses have included as a thickener in ice cream, beer and soups. The seaweed is put into a special colander-style device punctured with very small holes, spun underwater and turned into a soft, fluffy, white, soluble dressing, which has proved very effective on leg ulcers and pressure sores.

Marketing director Robert Browning explained: "The calcium alginate fibre in the seaweed keeps the wound moist. When the wound weeps the fibre combines with it and forms

## The dressing needs changing only once or twice a week

a layer over the wound so healing can take place."

The seaweed dressing needs to be changed only once or twice a week and is biodegradable – it gradually dissolves into the body. Kaltostat also has natural haemostatic properties to help stop bleeding without pressure being applied, unlike cotton or gauze dressings which tend to stick and then reopen wounds.

Britcain reckons it can produce small sized dressings for the NHS at 35p a time and larger ones at 75p. Its 10,000 sq ft factory in South Wales has the capacity to turn out around 300 square metres of dressing a day. The company is working on further developments of the seaweed technology, including a version which will get immediately for use on burns which need wet, soothing treatment fast.

## Data protection has a spin-off in employment

## JOBSCEENE

By Caroline Berman

Muscle is not a prerequisite for a job in security – at least not in data security. But knowledge of the data protection legislation often is.

With the growing recognition of the dangers of computer insecurity and the passing of the Data Security Act, organisations are now having to take data security very seriously. Many are recruiting data security experts both to protect their data, and to make sure they are complying with the legislation.

Banks and building societies have always needed to be security-conscious, but ever since the Act came in, organisations such as police forces and local councils have also had to be wary about keeping to the legislation.

Lancashire Constabulary has been advertising for a data-protection co-ordinator who would advise the police on protection and accessibility of data held in computer systems.

"We are looking for people who can offer experience in



Geoff Dalby of Woolwich Building Society: Expertise was developed

data protection and a computer background," said Bob Woodruff, civilian personnel manager at Lancashire Constabulary. The Lancashire police job will pay about £14,000.

The data protection co-ordinator would deal with the enquiries from the members of the public about information stored about them on the Police National Computer, which holds records on criminal convictions, or on Lancashire's own computer, which holds records of crimes committed in the local area. So far, there has been a low take-up of enquiries from the data subjects.

Security is an area of growth. There is increasing awareness of the need for financial institutions to maximize their security. Four to six people are now involved in data security at the Woolwich. Three years ago there were no such posts, although the work was done by different parts of the organization.

The security personnel are gradually becoming a brand in their own right," says Geoff Dalby, assistant manager of

DP at Woolwich Building Society. "At first, we built them out of systems programmers or programmers. They moved to data security and developed an expertise. Now we find the job demands a specialised knowledge and we try to recruit those with expertise. But there are very few in the market. Those that are command a premium."

At the bottom end, for a trainee, the Woolwich pays around £10,000, and at the top end, around £20,000. "This is out of proportion to the equivalent salary for someone of similar skills in conventional areas," says Mr Dalby.

The Woolwich uses a software package to control the way in which any individual can access the system, the records or any element of the data. "You can build fences around different levels of the database and ensure they are impenetrable, except by authorised parties," Mr Dalby explained.

Administering the Data Protection Act is a fairly new area for the Woolwich. "We were off to an early start. We wrote an administrative system to control inquiries and monitor their progress, expecting a large response. We have 120 branches and wanted a common approach. Once the requests are registered, they are passed to head office. We have a team of interested parties across the society to administer this."

So far, like Lancashire Constabulary, the Woolwich has had few inquiries. In the six weeks before Christmas, after the second part of the Act came in, there were seven inquiries. All but one were from the Woolwich's own audit people, putting the system to the test.

"We have the obligation to ensure personal information is secure, but this is the basic tenet of our business in any case. The larger issue is the need to ensure confidentiality of data, and the most primary concern when deal with large amounts of money is to protect it from hackers and from insiders who may be 'bad eggs'," explained Mr Dalby.

Hackney council in east London is also looking for a computer security officer, and is offering around £15,000. The data-security officer would take care of all access to all the computer networks.

Hackney is part of a consortium of four boroughs, using an IBM computer centre at Enfield, and there are 400 terminals in Hackney linked to the centre. Hackney, like the Woolwich, uses a software security package, which is very important, since there is data from other boroughs on the system.

So far, no one with sufficient experience has been supplied for the job.

A data protection officer has also been appointed to deal with the administration of the act. This includes protecting and securing the data, training people, and making them aware of the Act. The key aspect is dealing with requests from the public to see the data, then liaising with the departments that hold the data.

## If we only made cash registers, local government would still be working by the book.



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## DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Guildford is a town with much to offer as a place to live and work. It is an historic borough and has an attractive shopping centre surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty. It has abundant sport and leisure amenities and quick, easy access to the motorway network and, of course, London.

To ensure the most positive approach in meeting the needs of the government's competition legislation the department of Technical Services now requires two Heads of Division to take a leading role.

## Engineering Services Officer AND Works Services Officer

TO £22,600 P.A.

## PLUS CAR AND BENEFITS

The Engineering Services Officer (Post BD1) will head the Division responsible for undertaking the client role and primarily for providing the authority with professional, contractual and commercial services across a wide range of activities including engineering, cleansing, car parks management and vehicle maintenance. The Council also acts as Agent for Thames Water Authority. Candidates should be experienced managers, appropriately qualified to undertake a demanding role to obtain the best value for the Council.

The Works Services Officer (Post BK1) will head the Division primarily responsible for acting as contractor in providing operational and work services across the above range of activities including building maintenance, cleansing and transport management. The role will require an experienced manager able to motivate, meet objectives and to develop the Division to ensure the provision of the most economic and efficient service. This is a challenging role, vital to the future of the Council.

For both posts there is a substantial range of benefits to reward your expertise - performance related pay, non-contributory contract car, private medical insurance and, where necessary, significant relocation assistance, including a mortgage subsidy scheme.

For further details please telephone Guildford (0483) 502007 ext 2007 (24 hour answering) or write to the Personnel Officer, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5BB quoting the appropriate post number.

The Head of Department, Brendan Hanvey, will be pleased to discuss the posts informally if you contact him on Guildford (0483) 505050 ext 3000. Applications should be returned by 7 March 1988.



**Guildford**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## SOUTH BIRMINGHAM HEALTH AUTHORITY

## DIRECTOR OF NURSE EDUCATION

Salary ONE Grade 1: £18,380-£22,480 p.a.

Due to the retirement of the previous post-holder, we are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and forward-looking Senior Nurse Educationalist, with a proven record of educational management. Candidates should possess qualifications of leadership to head a most progressive School of Nursing, currently operating courses leading to the RMN, RMNH and a 52 week Conversion Course for EN(G) to RMN.

In collaboration with the Birmingham Polytechnic, a pilot scheme of training has been developed, leading to the RGN and a Diploma in Nursing Studies. We also have a well established Post-basic Education Department currently undertaking: ENB Course 189, 264, 298, 351, 360, 378, 398; Orthopaedics 219; Occupational Practice Nurse Course and in addition, a Nursing Staff Development Unit which has excellent training facilities and provides a wide range of courses and learning opportunities for our 2,500 nursing staff.

A major review of nurse education and training has taken place in the West Midlands and the appointed person will be expected to participate fully in the discussions and implementation of recommendations.

This Health Authority encourages an exciting, innovative approach to nurse education and the post-holder will be expected to continue with these projects.

A Crown Car facility operates.

If you have the necessary qualities and experience, preferably with a degree, or studying for a degree, for this demanding post, you should contact Mr D. Farnon, District Nursing Adviser, South Birmingham Health Authority, District Offices, Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6JF. Tel: 021-472 1345 ext 250.

For an application form, job description etc, please contact: Mr J. Leghorn, Director of Personnel, at the above address, on 021-472 1345 ext 210.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS VALUER

Salary Range - PO5  
£14,205 - £15,507  
per annum

Applications are invited from suitably qualified surveyors for this senior post providing a valuation service to the Economic Development Unit. The person appointed would be expected to deal with the acquisition, development, disposal and management of a wide variety of property. This is an interesting appointment in a busy office, and would particularly suit someone with entrepreneurial skills.

Essential car user allowance. Relocation and lodging expenses in approved cases.

Application forms and further details are available from the Director of Property Services, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY. (Tel: Taunton (0823) 333451, ext 3583).

Closing date: Friday 11th March 1988. Please quote reference: ET

Chief Nursing Officer  
Cardiff - £31,350

As Chief Nursing Officer you will provide advice to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Office on all health matters, in particular those relating to nursing, midwifery and health visiting services and education in hospitals and the community in Wales. You will contribute to the formulation of health policy and its implementation through membership of multi-disciplinary committees.

Preferably aged between 35 and 55, you must be a Registered Nurse with experience at a senior level of nursing management and chairing multi-disciplinary meetings. Knowledge of legislation, statutory bodies, professional organisations and current issues concerning nursing is essential.

Relocation expenses up to £3000 may be payable.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 16 March 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/7503.

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**Welsh Office - Y Swyddfa Gymreig**

## HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The National Consumer Council represents the UK consumer. It is our job to promote the consumer interest to government, national industry and commerce, and public, private and professional services. The Council is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry.

NCC invites applications for the post of Head of Public Affairs Group to lead press, parliamentary, publishing, legal, library and information staff. The aim of the group is to promote and implement NCC's policies.

The successful candidate will also be responsible for advising Council on all aspects of its public affairs policy and will be a member of Management.

Approximately half the job will include acting as Parliamentary Officer and the successful candidate must have the experience to brief, liaise with and lobby members of both Houses of Parliament.

Salary scale from £16,557 to £21,619 (inc. London Weighting) subject to 1.4.88 review.

For further information and application form please telephone

Sharon Hancock  
National Consumer Council  
20 Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1W 0DH 01-730-3468

Closing date for completed forms: FRIDAY 11 MARCH 1988



## PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

Salary: PO (SR) £19,194 - £20,463

Applications are invited for this challenging third tier post from suitably qualified local government solicitors or barristers.

The post holder heads the Personal Services Section of the Legal Division and is responsible for managing a team of Solicitors/Legal Executives dealing with all legal work arising from the Education, Social Services, Public Protection and Community Leisure Group of Committees. A legal support service is also given to the Avon Probation Committee and the Avon and Somerset Police Authority. In addition, the successful applicant will have general management responsibility for the Social Services Court Team and the Common Law Section.

Candidates should, therefore, be able to demonstrate a breadth of local government experience covering Committee attendance and good management skills including an aptitude towards use and development of new technology.

The County of Avon is a busy Authority which offers across the board experience of law and administration in the attractive and growing South West.

Application by form only, available with further details from the Director of Personnel Services, P.O. Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol, BS99 7YF, or telephone Bristol 0252555 (Answer on this number after office hours).

Please quote reference number ADL/021/72 when asking for forms which must be returned by 14th March 1988.

Advertisement & Legal Department

Avon as an Equal Opportunity Employer considers applicants on their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.



## FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Salary Scale PQ33-36 - (£12,804-£13,612)

In preparation of the impending competitive tendering legislation the Council are reforming their existing DLO and wish to appoint a Finance and Administrative Officer. The successful applicant will have administrative control and be financially responsible for the current housing maintenance contract, together with refuse collection, vehicle maintenance and other "contract" services. He/she will also have responsibility for the stores. This is a post which will interest a person who is already in a senior management position with a Local Authority or the private sector.

The Forest of Dean is a pleasant area in which to live and work and has easy access via the M5/M50 from all parts of the country. There are excellent recreational facilities within the District and housing is reasonably priced.

Further information and an application form may be obtained from Jean Gibbs, Council Offices, Cinderford, Glos. GL14 2AE. Telephone: Dean (0894) 22201.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 14th March, 1988.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer.

**Forest of Dean**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE NEW BRIDGE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Salary up to £14,000

Are you interested in developing our work with offenders? We are looking for somebody with enthusiasm, energy and initiative to provide leadership to our Voluntary Associates and to implement a new work programme. Experience in probation or social work desirable.

Applications by letter including a CV to the Director, The New Bridge, 1 George Close, Ledbury Grove, London W10 5XL. Telephone 01-859 6133. Closing date: February 28.

## SUE RYDER HOME

We invite the following staff to SHARE IN THE CARE of cancer patients and their families in our lovely Oxfordshire Home, where a hospice ethos is maintained.

**SISTER/CHARGE NURSE RGN**  
(experience essential)  
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The above posts are for full-time day and night duty.

We offer: Whitley salary scale; upgraded single accommodation; twice yearly travel grants in mainland UK; excellent post-basic experience and education opportunities.

Further details from: Mrs M. Cottrell, Matron, Ref: 71, Sue Ryder Home, Northfield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 5DF. Tel: (0491) 641384.

THE RATING AND VALUATION ASSOCIATION  
DIRECTOR

Salary £30,000 pa Plus lease car

## THE ASSOCIATION

This Association is one of the pre-eminent professional societies in the country for persons engaged in rating, revenues collection and valuation. With the advent of Community Charge the expertise of its members will be in great demand. It was founded in 1882 and has members drawn from those employed both in the public service and in private practice.

## THE APPOINTMENT

This is a new, challenging and demanding appointment which will involve taking a leading role in the development and promotion of the Association's interests, aims and objectives at national level. A key part of the Director's role will be to enhance the status of the Association during an important period of change with the introduction of the Community Charge.

The post calls for wide practical or managerial experience and knowledge at some senior level, though not necessarily in local government or valuation. It also requires a proven track record in communication skills particularly with the media and politicians.

The appointee will need to have a successful record as a dynamic and enterprising free thinker and a professional qualification or evidence of academic or administrative ability will be required. The appointment is subject to the Local Government superannuation scheme. The Association's offices are located in Central London. Further information may be obtained from Mr J C Price at the address below.

Applications should be sent to Mr J C Price FRVA, Acting Secretary, The Rating and Valuation Association, 115 Ebury Street, London, SW1W 5QT. Telephone No. 01-720-7258/7259 and 7260. Closing date 14th March 1988.

KINGSTON AND ESHER HEALTH AUTHORITY  
DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER

The Kingston and Esher Health Authority wishes to appoint to the post of District General Manager a person from either the public or private sector who, among other qualifications, can demonstrate successful record of general management at a very senior level. The vacancy occurs on October 1988, the date of normal retirement for Dr Bernard Meade, the present DGM.

The Health Authority is responsible for providing health care to a population of 179,800, employs some 3,500 staff and has a revenue budget of £44.5 million.

The General Manager will be responsible to the Authority for the general management function, for ensuring that the needs and care of patients are given the highest priority, and for developing and implementing the strategic and operational plans of the Authority within its revenue allocation.

Applicants must be able to exercise leadership and possess the necessary inter-personal skills to work in a multi-professional environment.

The appointment will initially be for a fixed term of 3 years and the salary will be about £36,000 (inc. London Weighting allowance). Further details, job description and application form available from: Mr B Jupp, District Personnel Officer, Kingston and Esher Health Authority, 17 Upper Brighton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6LH (telephone number 01-390 1111, ext 234).

Informal enquiries concerning the post can be made to Mr G A Turner, Chairman (tel 01-380 1111, ext 246).

Closing date for applications: 19th March 1988.

## SOLICITOR

Up to £17,508 inclusive

If you are looking for an attractive next step in your career in Local Government this post could offer you the perfect opportunity.

Specifically you would be advising and attending Committees, Borough Councils, working groups and undertaking legal, quasi legal and administrative work including court advocacy, and order making procedures etc.

We are looking for a competent and enthusiastic solicitor to fill this key post in our busy legal team.

Benefits include:  
- generous relocation scheme (including interest free loan for mortgage assistance)  
- temporary accommodation  
- flexitime (including flexileave)  
- subsidised car leasing scheme

For an application form and further details please apply to the Borough Council and Management Services Officer, Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey or phone Epsom 44911 (24 hour answer phone service).

Closing date: 15.3.88.

**EPSOM & EWELL**



Solicitor

DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

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## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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# MINISTRY OF DEFENCE GRADUATE RETRAINING SCHEME

## MSc Degrees in OR or Computer Science

- Do you already have or expect to obtain in 1988, a good honours degree (normally upper second or above) in a scientific or numerical discipline, including those for which there is limited demand among employers?
- Would you like to be retrained in Computer Science or Operational Research with subsequent employment as a scientist in the Ministry of Defence?
- If the answer to the above questions is yes, the Defence Science Group of MOD is offering successful candidates:
  - A grant of £5,000
  - Payment of tuition fees
  - An assigned senior MOD scientist as personal tutor
- Retraining will be accomplished using suitable MSc or Diploma level one year courses available at universities or polytechnics and commencing in the Autumn of 1988. Successful students will be expected to take up their appointment with the MOD Science Group on completion of their course.
- A limited number of immediate appointments at SO or HSO level may also be offered, with subsequent training to follow where appropriate.
- Further details and application forms are available from: Mr. Mike Taylor, CM(S)1BR, Room 8117, St. Christopher House, Southwork Street, London SE1 0TD.
- The closing date for applications is 31 March 1988.



# HAMPSHIRE

## Director County Museums Service

£28,000 +

Hampshire seeks a successor to Kenneth Barton who retires at the end of June 1988.

With 11 museums staging over 50 major exhibitions each year and attracting some 187,000 visitors, the Hampshire Museums Service has established a reputation for high professional standards which is recognised nationally.

The County Council is committed to maintain and develop these standards with wide public appeal and support. The Director must therefore possess relevant academic qualifications, management skills and experience of a high order. No particular age range is preferred but a record of achievement is essential.

In addition to a salary of £25,557 - £28,044, the post carries an essential car user allowance or leased car, a personal allowance of £594 p.a., and a retire at 60 pension package. Relocation expenses up to £4,500 plus actual removal costs and a mortgage subsidy scheme are also available.

The County Council pursues a policy of equality of opportunity. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the County Manpower Services Officer, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ. Telephone: Winchester (0962) 847691. Closing date 31st March 1988.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The National Council for Educational Technology is to be constituted as from 1 April 1988 and arises from an amalgamation of the Council for Educational Technology for the United Kingdom and the Microelectronics Education Support Unit.

The Chief Executive is responsible to the governing body of the National Council for the entire spectrum of its activities - ranging from the organisation of its day-to-day business to controlling the implementation of its strategy and programme policy. The Chief Executive also acts as Finance Officer and the National Council's principal representative in the UK and overseas.

Applicants will need a strong record of management experience and a proven leadership style, wide knowledge of the education and training systems of the UK and a feeling for informed

innovation. A comprehensive understanding of information technology and high professional standing in the field of educational technology would be a considerable advantage.

The National Council has in mind an appointment on a fixed-term contract, initially for five years, at a salary on the scale of £33,783-£35,373 per annum including Inner London weighting and superannuation; a higher salary will be considered, if necessary, for a candidate with exceptional qualifications or experience.

Fuller details of the post are available on application to John Faith, Austin Knight Selection, 17 St. Helen's Place, London EC3A 9AS. Tel: 01-256 5021 (01-256 8925 evenings/weekends), quoting reference 369/JF/88. Closing date for receipt of full applications: 11th March 1988.

NCET is an Equal Opportunities employer.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

NCET

# Unit General Manager

## Psychiatric Services

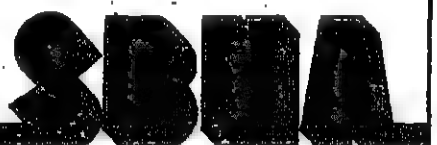
£25,841 + opportunity to earn  
Performance Related Pay

As a result of the promotion of the previous Unit General Manager, South Bedfordshire Health Authority needs to appoint a Unit General Manager, Psychiatric Services, who will have the enthusiasm, drive and energy to develop plans and means to provide a locally-based community oriented service to individuals in South Bedfordshire Health Authority.

At the same time, this General Manager must be able to manage the provision of effective existing services and to encourage two neighbouring districts in the setting up and development of local services.

If you have the desire and capacity to lead and achieve change, to involve a wide range of agencies and individuals and to promote mental health, together with already demonstrated managerial skills, ring Christine Love for more information. Potential candidates are welcome to contact Derek Smith, District General Manager.

Applications, including details of your career and achievements to date, should be sent to Mrs. L. C. Love, Director of Personnel, South Bedfordshire Health Authority, Bute House, 7 Dransfield Road, Luton; Beds, LU1 1BB. Tel: (0562) 37121, ext. 311. Not later than Monday 14th March 1988.



# Solicitor for Harrow

Harrow is a progressive Borough and is responsible for maintaining services to over 195,000 people spread over an area of some

20 sq miles. The young yet highly professional Legal Division provides a comprehensive and varied service of the highest standard.

We need a:

## SOLICITOR (Committee Services).

£15,363-£19,122

Do you have one or two years experience and want to expand your responsibility and experience? We are looking for an able and confident Solicitor to deal with a wide range of legal work.

The opportunity will exist for you to develop expertise in either contentious or non-contentious areas of work. Local Government experience will be an advantage but more importantly the successful applicant must be confident to advise and take part in the policy making process with senior management and elected Councillors.

It is a responsible position and you will have considerable independence. You will be dealing with a wide range of legal matters arising from Council Committees, particularly the Education Committee.

Starting salary to be agreed by negotiation. To find out more contact John Robinson or Roger Vergine on 01-863 5611 ext 2284 or 2260. Conditions include a 35 hour flexible working week, subsidised dining facilities, a non-smoking office environment, and good nearby sports facilities. The office is close to British Rail and London Transport tube and bus facilities.

For an application form please telephone our answering service on 01-863 5611 ext 2895 or write to the Staffing Officer, Department of Law and Administration, PO Box 2, London Borough of Harrow, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UH.

Closing date: 15 March 1988.

**Harrow Legal**  
an equal opportunity employer

# DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

St Elizabeths in Ipswich is an independent Hospice expected to open in 1989. Over one million has been raised towards building a 20 bed unit, but there is a continuing need to raise money for the revenue funding of the Hospice.

Raising this money will require the long term direction and coordination of voluntary fundraising in the community, as well as close liaison with other potential sources of funds.

A mature executive with a successful career in his or her chosen field, able to work with minimum supervision, and able to communicate with people to all walks of life, is needed.

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Continued on next page

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## Law Report February 23 1988

### No duty owed to child by council

*Dear v Newham London Borough Council*  
Judges: Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Taylor

*Judgment February 11*

Rubbish which included mildewed carpeting, an old tin bath, and various pieces of wood, metal and plastic was not "house refuse" within the meaning of section 72 of the Public Health Act 1936.

In consequence a local authority was not obliged to remove it and accordingly did not owe a duty of care to the infant plaintiff in respect of injuries she sustained in falling from a balcony on which the rubbish had been collected.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Newham London Borough Council from Mr Michael Wright, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* April 10, 1987) who had held that the council were liable to the infant plaintiff, Jane Dear, suing by her mother, and next friend, in respect of injuries she had sustained when she crawled on to rubbish collected on the balcony of the council flat where she lived, and had fallen from the balcony, fracturing her skull.

Mr Gary Sankey for the Council, Mr George Fulman for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the council had let the premises to the plaintiff's mother. When she had moved in, there was a collection of rubbish in the roof space including damp and mildewed carpeting and an old tin bath, various pieces of metal and plastic and what looked like the remains of furniture. When the rubbish was discovered it was moved on to the balcony of the premises by her brother and father.

The council provided a refuse collection service in the borough. His Lordship set out section 72 of the Public Health Act 1936, which so far as material, provided: "(1) A local authority may, and if required by the minister shall, undertake the performance of all or any of the following services, that is to say - (a) the removal of house refuse... either as respects the whole or any part of their district."

"(2) If a local authority who, as respects their district or any part thereof, have undertaken the removal of house refuse... receive notice from the occupier of any premises within the district... requiring them to remove any house refuse from those premises, and without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the notice within seven days, the occupier of the premises may recover summarily as a civil debt from the authority the sum of 25p for every day during which the default continues after the expiration of the said period."

"(3) A local authority who as respects their district... have undertaken the removal of house refuse may make by-laws for the area to which their undertaking may for the time being extend - (b) where a local authority themselves provide dustbins requiring that those dustbins shall be used..."

It was common ground that the council were a local authority falling within the section, that they had undertaken the removal of house refuse, and were accordingly under an obligation to perform that function in respect of the premises where the plaintiff lived.

In the exercise of their powers under section 72(3) the council had made by-laws, in particular requiring the occupier to place all house refuse in dustbins.

Section 73 of the 1936 Act provided for the removal of trade refuse, and section 74 provided for the removal of "refuse" as distinct from house or trade refuse empowering a local authority at the request of an occupier to "remove any refuse... which they are under no obligation to remove."

In practice the council's refuse collection service operated once a week when refuse collectors and vehicles would call at the premises and collect any refuse

which had been both placed in dustbins and put in the street outside the front of the premises.

The dustmen would not take away any refuse not so dealt with, and in particular they would not under any circumstances collect refuse from a point so remote from the street as the balcony which was at the rear of the plaintiff's mother's flat.

The council did offer a special collection facility for unwanted bulky items free of charge on request.

It was common ground that the plaintiff's mother had made a number of requests to the council to remove the rubbish from her balcony and that at the material time the council were well aware of both its existence and the potential health hazard it caused.

In August 1981 the plaintiff, then aged 20 months, had crawled up on the rubbish and had fallen a distance of 13 feet over the balcony sustaining a fractured skull.

In subsequent proceedings the deputy judge had concluded that the council owed the plaintiff a duty of care at common law because the 1936 Act imposed on them a statutory duty to remove rubbish from the balcony, and that in failing to do so the council were in breach of both duties.

In appealing against that decision, Mr Sankey submitted that the council were under no obligation to remove the rubbish in question because it was not "house refuse" within the meaning of section 72 and that accordingly the council owed the plaintiff no duty at common law.

Parliament had not defined the phrase in the Act and the court was not entitled to insert a definition by a process of judicial legislation. Nevertheless his Lordship concluded that in broad terms Mr Sankey's definition was correct for the following reasons:

1 That it accorded with the meaning which attached to the

words as a matter of the ordinary use of language.

2 It derived strong support from section 72(3)(b) which empowered a local authority to provide dustbins and to make by-laws requiring that they be used. Such power would be of limited use if it remained open to a householder to serve a notice under section 72(2) requiring the authority to remove bulky items of rubbish which were not capable of fitting in a dustbin.

3 It was unlikely that the legislature would have intended by section 72 to impose on an authority the obligation to remove on notice items of rubbish so bulky that they could not be fitted into a dustbin. In his Lordship's judgment it was much more probable that such items would fall to be dealt with under section 74.

His Lordship, having studied the evidence concluded that the collection of rubbish on the balcony, was not capable of falling within the description "house refuse" as used in section 72.

The deputy judge had misdirected himself in not attaching sufficient significance to the size of the items and in not appreciating the guidance given by section 72(3)(b) in that context.

In his Lordship's judgment the items on the balcony were the very kind of items to which the permissive provisions of section 74 were intended to relate. Accordingly, section 72(2) imposed no obligation on the council to collect the rubbish, even on notice.

Accordingly, with some reluctance and regret, his Lordship was driven to conclude that because the council were under no obligation to remove the rubbish in question, they owed no duty of care to the infant plaintiff. He would therefore allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Russell delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: L. Watmore & Co; E. Edwards Son & Noice, East Ham.

### Bank's error does not negative theft

*Regina v Hamid Shadrokh-Cigari*

Before Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Saville  
*Judgment February 8*

A bank retained an equitable interest in drafts it had issued upon another's mistake and that interest amounted to "property" within the meaning of the Theft Act 1968.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Hamid Shadrokh-Cigari against conviction on four counts of theft and a three-year sentence of imprisonment imposed by Judge Malcolm Porter at Birmingham Crown Court on December 9, 1986.

Mr James Pyke for the Crown, Mr Richard Brock, QC, for the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

Before he left for Iran the father told his son and the appellant that he might sell a house and the sum transferred might be larger than expected.

In January 1986 through an internal error on the part of the remitting bank in the United States, the sum of \$286,000 was transferred. It should have been for only \$286.

On January 13, 1986 Midland Bank issued four bank's drafts in favour of the appellant. Over the next few weeks the appellant withdrew large sums in cash and travellers' cheques. The appellant was arrested on February 3, 1986, to date, only about \$21,000 had been recovered.

The banker's drafts would not have been issued and delivered to the appellant if it had not been for the American bank's mistake. A banker would not issue a banker's draft unless he himself was absolutely certain that he had received the money in payment.

The appellant came under an obligation to make restoration of the proceeds or value of the banker's drafts on the basis that the Midland Bank retained an equitable proprietary interest in the drafts as a result of the mistake. It was not disputed that such an equitable interest amounted to property within the meaning of the Theft Act 1968.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Birmingham.

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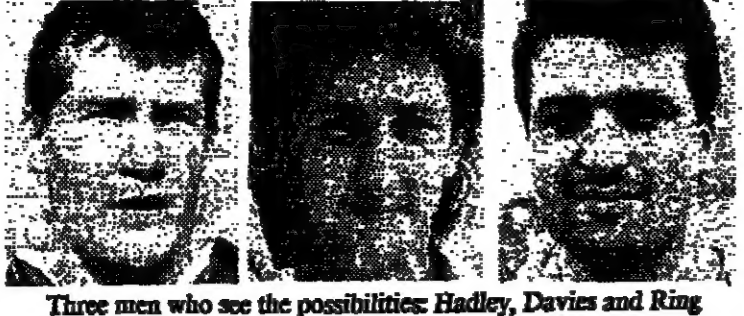
# Welsh dragon setting the land on fire

David Hands, our Rugby Correspondent, salutes a nation that has rediscovered freedom of expression

Those of us fortunate to witness at first hand the rugby played during the World Cup last summer are getting our cake with dollops of cream on it. At just past the halfway stage of the five nations' championship we have had six excellent games which, if not all as compelling as Wales's victory over Scotland at the weekend, have been worthy advertisements for Rugby Union.

It is not strictly relevant that the standards of excellence are not so high, perhaps, as those to which All Black or Springbok might aspire. What is relevant is the varied contribution which British and Irish teams are making to a competition which, in an opinion poll run by *L'Espresso* at the weekend is by a long way, the most popular of the five nations.

The poll suggested that, for the French at least, the prestige of the five nations' championship had been maintained since the World Cup. That may be because of French success over the last decade; it also has to do with the



Three men who see the possibilities: Hadley, Davies and Ring

For that we owe a debt to the Welsh and the Scots, even if Scotland can look forward to no more than a place midway up the championship table. Given their losses in key personnel this season, that is scarcely surprising, though at one stage on Saturday thoughts of at least a shared championship must have begun to flicker when they led by 10 points in Cardiff.

But what of Wales, much maligned at the beginning of the year? They are playing with freedom, they will not be granted on tour in New Zealand this summer but which will not harm their confidence and could have a positive effect on the game as played at club level. One of Tony Gray's problems as national coach has been to encourage players to express themselves in a way few do, week in and

the 1980s; that is the prize on offer against Ireland in Dublin on March 5. Only when that match was won they began to consider a grand slam in the game against France in Cardiff on March 19.

There are not too many options available to Ireland, who struggled badly in the tight five in Paris. One possibility canvassed at the weekend was the switching of Des Fitzgerald from tight-head to loose-head prop and the return of Jim McCorry, capped eight times this far.

Fitzgerald's club colleague at Llanelli, Tom Clancy, would add bulk to the front row, as would the inclusion of the Ballymena hooker, Steve Smith. Elsewhere Ireland might give thought to someone like Denis McBride, the Malrose flanker, in an effort to keep tabs, so far as that is possible, on Jonathan Davies.

The Welsh stand-off half has not lacked for superlatives this weekend; he had an amazingly effective

## ROWING

### London's rate finds Oxford out of order

By Jim Rafter

Oxford will be searching their heads and necks for the reason why they were beaten by the London University rowing team on Saturday. London, in a row from the University Stone to Chiswick Steps, were sharper and crisper from start to finish and looked like a racing crew.

Oxford, on the other hand, looked ponderous and unable to lift their cadence when it was necessary to do so to have any hope of getting a level term.

Oxford, in the middle, were quick off the start, but within half a minute had a canvas which was soon whirled down. Simon Webb, of London, rating three strokes higher than Oxford, was a quarter of a length up on the Dark Blue at the two minutes. By then, both crews were living on the edge as far as steering was concerned and the almost traditional clash came when London, fighting for the tide, collided with Oxford.

## ATHLETICS

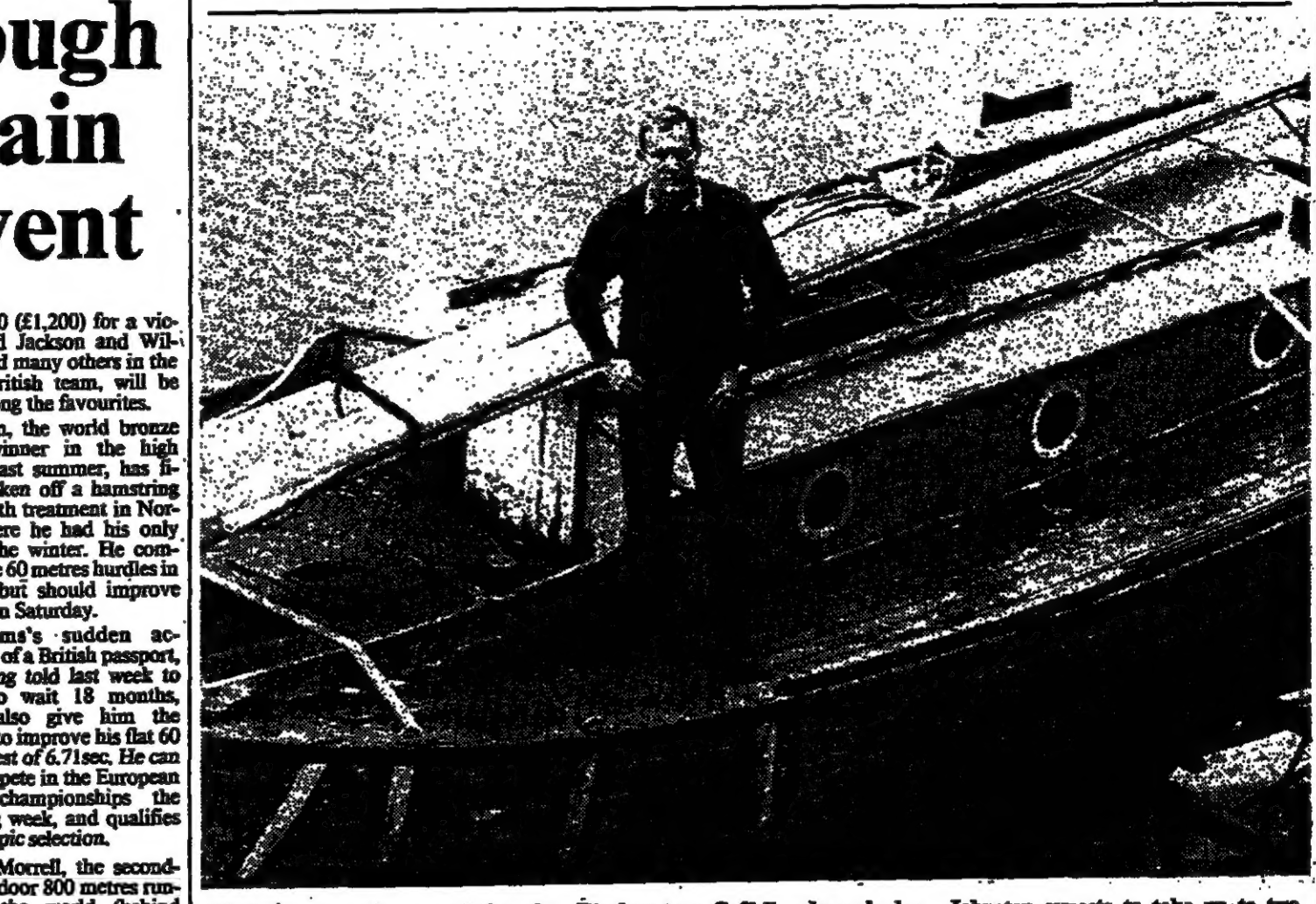
### Jackson fit enough to run for Britain in European event

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Colin Jackson, returning from injury, and Barrington Williams, complete with British passport, will compete in France on Saturday in an event which emphasizes the commercial possibilities of a European indoor circuit.

Eurosport Communications, a Paris-based company already responsible for a score of athletic events in France, has secured the backing of the European Economic Community cultural division, and the sponsorship of several French companies, to mount an event in Vittel, the home of

## Out of mothballs and into adventure



Nineteen years after completing the first non-stop circumnavigation, Robin Knox-Johnston, the solo yachtsman, is preparing his veteran yacht, *Suhaili*, for another great adventure, the Carlsberg single-handed transatlantic race from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island (Barry Pickthall writes).

Knox-Johnston is one of 120 entrants to sign up for the race, and yesterday *Suhaili* was moved by road from

## GOLF

### Pate will try hand at Open

From John Ballantine La Jolla, California

Steve Pate won his second tournament of the season here in the San Diego Open and finished second in the Los Angeles Open. Ballesteros, who ended a hard-working week with a 68 to finish in a creditable joint eighth place.

Pate, aged 26, of California, will meet Ballesteros, aged 30, of Spain, again in the Los Angeles Open, which starts on Thursday, and also at Royal Lytham & St Annes in July. Pate is convinced he will finally make up his mind to cross the Atlantic to compete for the first time in the Open Championship.

## Fear of slander

The committee investigating allegations of drug abuse in athletics, including those published in *The Times* in December, is meeting opposition from people who would like to testify but believe the terms of confidentiality in the letter of invitation to give evidence, it says that everything will be placed on public record.

But Taylor wrote yesterday to Peter Cook, the head of the three-man committee, saying he now felt unable to do so. Taylor said: "Much as I regret it, I have had to refuse, simply because the committee does not offer any confidentiality. In the letter of invitation to give evidence, it says that everything will be placed on public record."

## OXFORD

### Oxford seek elusive victory

By Sydney Friskin

Oxford will take the field for the University match against Cambridge at Lord's today hoping to achieve a victory which has eluded them since 1979, when they won 6-1. The good news for Oxford, who delayed the final announcement of their team, is that Richard Rush, who dominates their midfield play, has recovered from injury.

After a poor start to the season Oxford raised their game and gained their best result when they defeated Gloucestershire 2-0 in the London League. Cambridge looked sharp and competent when they beat the Army

## OVERSEAS FOOTBALL

### Woodcock rescues troubled Cologne

There were subdued starts for the top teams in West Germany and France after the resumption of their leagues following the winter break. For Cologne, who are challenging Werder Bremen for the leadership of the Bundesliga, Saturday was dominated by the resignation of their coach, Udo Lattek, who left that morning to join the newspaper, *Bild*, as a columnist.

## MOTOR RACING

### Piquet's new car unveiled

Le Castellet - Nelson Piquet, the Formula One world champion, introduced his new car to the public at the end of last season. The new car, the Williams FW18C, is a masterpiece of aerodynamic design and is expected to be a contender for the 1988 world title.

## HOCKEY

### England's hopes are upset

By Roddy Mackenzie

England's preparations for the West European women's championship in Athens in April have suffered a setback with the confirmation yesterday that the four-nation tournament, the first weekend of the Association planned to host in Portsmouth shortly before the championship has been cancelled.

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## England ring changes

The England squad to play Spain in the Tipp-Ex international at Wembley on March 19 has a much changed look (Joyce Whitehead writes). In the greatest shake-up in the national side for years, there will be six new faces. There will also be a first appearance at Wembley for Suzanne Brimble, who was capped for the first time last year. Mary Chesnut, freed temporarily from the Great Britain team, is back in the squad.

## TABLE TENNIS

### Prean absence may be a blessing in disguise

By Richard Katon

Carl Prean, the National Top Twelve champion, has pulled out of England's important promotion-deciding match with Belgium in the European League at Chelmsford tomorrow after injuring his neck.

Prean, aged 21, from the Isle of Wight, had already withdrawn from the English national championships at Leeds this weekend to play for his club, Saurbruggen, in the German Bundesliga. He apparently expects to be fit to play for them.

## OVERSEAS RESULTS

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Derry City 1, Carrick 0. Limerick City 3, Bray Wanderers 0. Shelbourne 0, Dundalk 1. Sligo Rovers 0, Drogheda 0. Wexford 0, St. Patrick's 0. Shamrock Rovers 0, Bohemians 0. Shelbourne 0, Drogheda 0. Wexford 0, St. Patrick's 0. Shamrock Rovers 0, Bohemians 0.

## POOLS FORECAST

by Paul Newman

THIRD DIVISION	NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE
1. Bury v. Bolton 2. Burnley v. Blackburn 3. Fulham v. Doncaster 4. Millwall v. Bristol City 5. Notts County v. Chester 6. Port Vale v. Walsley 7. Preston v. Bradford 8. Rotherham v. Chester City 9. Torquay v. Wigan	1. Bury v. Bolton 2. Burnley v. Blackburn 3. Fulham v. Doncaster 4. Millwall v. Bristol City 5. Notts County v. Chester 6. Port Vale v. Walsley 7. Preston v. Bradford 8. Rotherham v. Chester City 9. Torquay v. Wigan

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